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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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**USSR REPORT
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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

VOLKOGONOV ON DEPLOYMENT OF PERSHING II'S

Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by Lt Gen Volkogonov, doctor of philosophical sciences, professor:
"The Ominous Shadow of the 'Pershings'"]

[Text] American missiles, equipment for the missiles and other, auxiliary technical equipment have begun arriving in the NATO nations. The Soviet people and all people of good will see this as a direct lowering of the nuclear threshold, which is increasing the risk of nuclear war. What is the position taken by the Europeans themselves toward the deployment of Euromissiles? How do they regard the fact that the nations of Western Europe are being made an American hostage?

As we answer these questions, it is important to underscore the fact that the attitude toward the deployment of nuclear missiles is not an unequivocal one. Leading circles in the NATO nations, representatives of large capital, the military and leaders of the bourgeois parties always follow obediently where American policy leads. Both Thatcher and Kohl, as well as other state leaders of the West European nations, after all, must understand the consequences such an anti-popular, extremely dangerous policy can have. Imperialist solidarity and class hatred for socialism, however, combined with unrestrained pressure from Washington, are reflected in the fact that the leaders of most NATO states express the interests of monopolistic capital and the military-industrial complex and are aiding and cooperating with the Pentagon in every possible way with the implementation of its extremely dangerous plans.

Honorable people with no desire to accept the role prepared for them by the militarists of NATO and the USA are a different matter. Sociological centers for the study of public opinion in West Germany, for example, register the indisputable fact that anti-missile, anti-militaristic, anti-American sentiment is growing in the nation. According to the West German press 56 percent of those surveyed in the FRG in August of 1983 opposed the deployment of American missiles in Western Europe, while the number of people protesting this possibly fatal move had risen to 76 percent in November (on the eve of the impending deployment). People promoting various political and religious views and with various outlooks on life are all seeing with increasing clarity that the social, economic, spiritual and national problems cannot be resolved until the main problem of preserving peace has been resolved.

The more powerful the popular protest against American missiles, however, the more sophisticated are the lies and the attempts by NATO to shift responsibility for the increased tensions and military danger to the Soviet Union. The CIA, the USIA and the Pentagon are doing everything possible to destroy the fervor of the anti-missile demonstrations, to quell the wave of antipopular rage. A special resolution on the "neutralization" of the anti-missile movement in Europe was recently adopted at a meeting of NATO's permanent council in Brussels. It openly states that every possible means should be employed "to persistently demonstrate the close link between the peace movement and Moscow and its danger to the defense of Western democracy."

In accordance with this resolution and with warnings from Washington, specific steps are being taken to discredit the leaders of the peace movement, political and psychological terror is being practiced, and provocateurs and agents of special services are being infiltrated into the ranks of those protesting against the new American missiles. The order from across the ocean, which resounded in Brussels, echoed ominously in the NATO capitals. A government-level coordinating center for "blocking antisocial elements demonstrating with slogans of peace" was set up in Bonn, for example. Machinery for the legal investigation of those fighting against the continent's militarization has been readied; the propaganda centers have shifted into high gear the vehicle for spreading vile lies about "Moscow's secret designs," the "increasing missile threat from the East," the "only chance of surviving is in the shelter of American missiles" and so forth.

In this last month of fall the bourgeois West German press, following instructions from Washington, has begun intensively amplifying two new postulates. Basically, they do nothing more than claim that the Pentagon will deploy the "Pershings" and cruise missiles with deliberate slowness, in order to give the USSR "a chance" to agree "at the last minute" to proposals put forth by the USA. These proposals amount to unilateral disarmament by the Soviet Union, of course. The second postulate claims that the existence of "Pershings" and cruise missiles in Western Europe will create a "restraining force," which, they say, will force the Russians "to think carefully before deciding to commit aggression." They frequently add that it might be worth trying to reach agreement with the Americans, whereby the Americans would not exercise complete authority with respect to launching the missiles but would need the agreement of the leaders in whose nations the launchers are being installed.

They have it all backwards! What sort of aggression are they talking about? After all, it is Reagan and Weinberger who have discussed and continue to discuss a "limited nuclear war in Europe" and the possibility of achieving victory in such a war. It was the American president and his close associates who publicly announced in their "Directive on the Development of the U.S. Armed Forces During the Period 1984-1988" that it is essential to be prepared "to destroy socialism as a social system." It is the Pentagon, after all, which is constantly "perfecting" its aggressive doctrines, affirming its "right," as American General Rogers recently did, to carry out the first, "paralyzing," strike.

It is also clear that the Americans will never agree to dual control of the nuclear missile forces in Europe. Never in the past have they bothered to consult

with their allies. The aggression committed by the USA in Grenada, for example, came like a bolt from the blue for the American allies. The Pentagon has not shared with any of them and will not share with them control over the nuclear power. This is an unequivocal fact.

It should also be clear to any, even slightly informed person that it is the deployment of missiles in the FRG and other Western nations which makes them hostages and the certain victims of a nuclear war. Is the Pentagon's strategy with respect to Western Europe not apparent? It consists in deploying as many nuclear weapons as possible there, which it believes will divert the greatest possible number of the USSR's nuclear missile systems to that area. This would make it possible for America to remain untouched by the all-consuming Apocalypse in case of a nuclear war.... Such hopes are in vain, though. The priests of war in the Pentagon bunkers must understand that they will not be able to sit out a war in safety there, should they unleash a nuclear war. Retaliation will inevitably follow.

In order to deceive the people, the NATO leaders are making an enormous effort to influence public opinion in their nations by means of the mass media, demagogical and false statements by the leaders. For example, the Pentagon recently fabricated yet another false document entitled "Medium-Range Nuclear Weapons: Questions and Answers," in which one lie is piled upon another. Not to be left behind, the Bundeswehr also issued a large printing of a pamphlet entitled "It Is a Matter of Our Security." It greatly distorts Soviet policy and Soviet peace-loving proposals. A special "corps of Bundeswehr officers for working with the youth" has been created at the instruction of the government of the FRG. More than 100 officers and noncommissioned officers spend a considerable part of their service time in schools and gymnasiums, at enterprises and in meetings, trying to get the young people "to understand that their security is guaranteed only by NATO," only by "additional armaments" and "support for U.S. policy." The Bundeswehr press is acting in concert with the Springer newspapers WELT, WELT AM SONNTAG and BILD AM SONNTAG, which have used any means for a long time to implant "untruths" in the minds of the people.

Television and radio in the FRG are doing everything possible to convince the West German viewer and listener that without the "Pershings" and cruise missiles, their "freedom" will inevitably be lost. Production of the film "Basic Facts," designed to convince the viewer of the "growing threat from Moscow," is being completed in the West. A course of unprecedented intimidation of the residents of capitalist nations in the West has been taken for purposes of suppressing their will to protest and to combat the rashness of the American and NATO military and political leaders. All of these efforts by imperialism's psychological warfare machine have still not produced the desired results, however. Public opinion against American missiles and the Pentagon's plans for Western Europe is growing. And there is every objective basis for this. Here are a few of them. Citizens of the NATO states must understand that if the Americans install almost 600 of their new missiles on the old continent, this will not be the end of it. This will for sure be followed by the deployment of neutron, chemical and other weapons (in accordance with Pentagon plans already in existence).

The foreign press is already stating that the Americans intend to deliver a total of around 400 Pershing II missiles to Europe and not 108. Plans are simultaneously being considered for deploying more than 2,000 neutron charges for artillery systems and Lance tactical missiles in the NATO nations. It is planned in the future "to add" 300 nuclear warheads for the Pershing II missiles, around 600 for the cruise missiles and around 500 for the Lance II missiles. And who knows what will follow this?

The U.S. Defense Department plans to stuff Western Europe to the full with nuclear weapons. It is not difficult to see that all of these acts can significantly lower the nuclear threshold even more, making it easier for the nuclear adventurists from the White House to cross it. The likelihood of a nuclear war, in which hundreds of millions of people could be incinerated, is growing markedly as a result.

The ominous shadow from the "Pershings" is advancing across Western Europe. More and more people in the NATO nations are understanding with increasing clarity that life in the twilight shed by the American monster-missiles promises nothing good for them. In this situation the constructive proposals offered by the Soviet Union and presented in Yu.V. Andropov's Declaration and in his interview published in the newspaper PRAVDA demonstrate a definite and clear prospect--the way out of the nuclear dead-end path onto which the Washington politicians are attempting to nudge the peoples of Europe.

If, however, against the will of millions of people, the United States and its allies cover Western Europe with a new network of missile systems, the Soviet Union will immediately take appropriate responsive steps. It will not permit the present balance of nuclear forces to be destroyed. Assured coexistence is only possible today on the basis of equality in nuclear missiles. Every challenge threatening our security and the security of our allies must be met.

11499
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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY LIFE: REPORTS, ELECTIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Maj O. Belomestnov: "The Sanctioning of... Formalism"]

[Text] The tank company commanded by Captain S. Grishanov did not fulfill its socialist commitments. In the final test it received only a satisfactory score for firing an organic shell. All of the company communists--Captain S. Grishanov and Lieutenants I. Pulko and S. Khalturin--did not look their best by far, to put it mildly, in the total picture.

The failing did not make itself apparent at once. More than once during the entire summer training period the company "brought back" poor scores from the firing ground. One would have expected this to produce alarm not only in the company communists, but also in the battalion party bureau and the regimental party committee, that they would all begin looking for a way to correct the situation. This did not happen, however. And there was something to think about. There were also numerous "spots" onto which the company party organization could focused its efforts: A serious study needed to be made of its work style, and it needed to discuss ways in which the communists could truly demonstrate their vanguard role. Unity of organizational and indoctrinal measures was clearly lacking in the company, and the mass political and individual work was performed poorly....

In short, it had become urgent to discuss some very important matters at the subunit's report-and-election meeting. And the battalion party bureau and the party committee would have been justified in giving some special attention to this party organization. More than that, this would have been very desirable.

According to the established schedule a company report-and-election party meeting should have been held 2 weeks before the beginning of the final testing. The communists felt that at this point they had no time for... discussions. They had to prepare for the testing, after all. And they decided to elect the secretary informally. More precisely, they decided to retain Lieutenant I. Pulko as secretary. The regimental party committee headed by Major V. Yavorskiy approved this "practicality" on the part of the communists. The party committee secretary did inform the political section by telephone. The people there also accepted the "local initiative" favorably, however.

Workers in the political section and party committee members are now criticizing the company communists for the fact that they did not set an example in the fulfillment of socialist commitments and were unable to motivate their subordinates to achieve goods results in the combat training. This criticism is too late, however. Incidentally, the report-and-election meeting, had thorough preparations been made for it, would undoubtedly have helped mobilize the communists to successfully wrap up the training year.

I believe that there is an important problem behind this incident. This is how formalism develops, step by step. The company communists overlook one case after another of simplification of the combat training. They are not concerned when the indoctrinational work breaks down. When they themselves fire poorly in the combat training, they regard it as an accident. Neither the party bureau nor the party committee hastens to get to the bottom of the situation, to give some thought to how they could help the company party organization, and do not attach any importance to the "routine" and "petty" breakdowns. And so, formalism unnoticeably dulls "their vision," their critical attitude toward deficiencies in the party work, and spreads to more important areas. This is the only explanation for the handling of the report-and-election party meeting in that manner--the most important meeting, the meeting of the year, as they say.

The case of the gross violation of standards governing intra-party life and the underestimation of the role of political and organizational work in the low-level collective of communists absolutely must be properly assessed at the regimental report-and-election party meeting.

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY'S ACTION IN DOMESTIC DISPUTE JUSTIFIED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 83 (signed to press 23 Aug 83) p 28

[Article by Correspondent Major V. Litovkin, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District: "Start with Yourself"]

[Text] He was sitting, his shoulders lowered and gray streaks shone in his thick black hair. They looked like unmelted frost following a surprise winter storm. I had become acquainted with Warrant Officer A. Agamaglanov several years before, during my first trip to this garrison. At that time, in his entire countenance, his confidence in himself and his future, there was not even a hint of today's unhealthy thinness, premature graying or the hard squint in his darkened eyes. I viewed him as one of the best warrant officers in the unit, a graduate of a polytechnical institute, specialist 1st class, public minded, energetic and a demanding commander. What had changed since then?

Warrant Officer Agamag'yanov's letter to the editors of the journal speaks of this. "In November 1981 I was disciplined by the party. I received a reprimand with annotation in my registration form for unworthy behavior in my family. It was the result of the latest scandal with my wife. Later we made up and everything seemed to be all right. But in August of last year we again started fighting and decided to get a divorce. The People's Court satisfied our request. After that my ordeals began.

"First my former wife complained both in writing and orally to all levels of the chain of command, from the unit commander up to the senior commander. Here, there and everywhere she flung mud at me and blackened my name, saying that I supposedly did not let her come home, etc. Second, the unit tried in various ways to remove me from my apartment and leave it to my former wife.

"Twice I wrote an application to the party organization, requesting that my previous punishment be remitted. However, the party bureau decreed that until the question of changing residence is resolved and the complaints cease (i.e., slander and lies) from my former wife, the party punishment will not be remitted. What can I do? I cannot stop her slander and they will not give me permission to change apartments. It is turning out that this punishment will be a permanent black mark against me. I strongly request your intervention and assistance."

For a long time we looked with Warrant Officer Agamaglanov into all the upheavals in his life. We spoke with commanders and colleagues and with officials drawn into the orbit of the difficult relations between the former couple. We talked with Doctor Ofeliya Sultanova, the warrant officer's former spouse and now his neighbor in a common two-room apartment. The more I looked into the details of this matter, the stronger my conviction grew that Agamaglanov's grievances were all unjust.

It was not only Ofeliya, who insisted on her lawful right and that of her 2-year-old daughter (his daughter as well) to a peaceful life, free of scandal. Nor was it only the unit commander who proposed that he, as a bachelor, move to a dormitory. Nor was it the decision of the members of the party bureau. It was he himself. It was his inability, or rather his unwillingness to understand another person, his wife and the mother of his child, to find a way to get to her and restore their harmonious family life; the kind of family life where love, mutual respect and mutual responsibility for comfort and warmth in the home and for their growing child reigns.

What interfered? Drunkenness? His wife's infidelity? Differences in education and upbringing? Their fast-blooming acquaintance? No. In order to understand the reasons for the discord it is necessary to go back several years.

Agamaglan and Ofeliya had known each other for a long time. They grew up in the same homestead and went to the same school. True, he was a year older, and, when his father left his mother and the children, he began to work at an early age. They became close when they were already grown and rather mature people, when, as is said, they were firmly standing on their own two feet. Both were institute graduates. She went to work and he served in one of the groups of forces. They started to write. A mutual tenderness arose from the letters, which grew into love. Soon, when he was transferred to his home town they married.

They had no room, and the newlyweds temporarily moved in with Ofeliya's mother in her three-room apartment. But then their daughter was born. The warrant officer wanted his independence. He wanted to become the master in his own family, and living with his mother-in-law did not allow this. Squabbling began.

All this became known to the command. In order to help the warrant officer to keep his family and save it from dissension despite all the difficulties, they met Agamaglanov half way, as an outstanding specialist, and authorized him a beautiful two-room apartment with a large balcony and all the conveniences, only a 10-minute walk to the unit.

But unfortunately the apartment was literally two steps from the home of his mother-in-law. The praporshchik told me with pain in his voice:

"No matter when I came home my wife could not be found. She was always at her mother's."

He could not understand her attachment to her mother's home and the atmosphere in which she had spent her entire life. And he did not wish to understand. He did not strive to create in his own home the kind of situation and moral climate which Ofeliya would value, and which would attract her to him. He simply believed that since she was married she must break with the past and visit her mother only as a guest, once or twice a week. No more. But his wife did not agree with such conditions.

It is said that family life is a road down which each partner must go part way to meet the other, and only then can they bravely and confidently go forward in the same direction.

He lacked the tact, patience and self-critical attitude for this, and did not consider this rule important. Without making even a single step forward himself, he demanded that she radically change her own habits, attachments and even her character. When she was not able to do this, he began to adopt his own methods, which seemed completely appropriate to him, to influence her. He insisted. He forbade. He gave ultimatums. And when these did not help he shouted and quarreled.

"I was probably a bad wife and a bad homemaker," she would tell me later. "But no one ever shouted at me, much less quarreled. How could I bear that or become used to it?"

Even today, long after the divorce, she could not forget the insult which she had endured. And even today he is convinced that he acted correctly. Everything he did was dictated by only one concern, only one desire--to keep her love and save his family. But could scandals really help?

He did not even notice that the daily quarrels over trivialities, nagging and accusations destroyed the happiness of their recent mutual love, and made their life together a source of constant irritation and nervous tension. Agamaglanov did not understand that behind his methods of "reeducating" his wife and behind the regular scandals stood not a desire to strengthen his family, but to alter her life to suit him and to assert his superiority. To assert it by any methods. Attempts were made to stop him, to correct him and to give him good advice. But he listened to no one; not his superiors, his colleagues or his friends. "My family is my business," the warrant officer asserted. He did not sense that this serious battle for leadership, like poison, was drop by drop killing not only the love, but also the respect for him held by Ofeliya, and that in the dust of this battle he had long since overstepped the bounds of propriety and in general the norms of good relations between husband and wife. He saw only that the family squabbling was undermining his strength and health, affecting his work and causing him to lose confidence in himself, and that it was becoming progressively worse.

No, Ofeliya was obviously not exaggerating or speaking slander when she complained to the commander and the party organization about the intolerable situation in her family. There was no need to doubt her words. The warrant officer had raised his hand to his wife before the eyes of the unit deputy commander for political affairs, who was trying to help the young couple

through his advice to better their relationship. It was namely for this that Communist Agamaglanov received the reprimand with annotation in his registration form.

Even now when, according to the warrant officer, they are just good friends, he continues to place conditions upon her and insist that they be strictly observed. On the day that the party bureau was discussing his application to have his punishment remitted, on the commander's desk was an action from the rayon militia concerning a scandal in the apartment where Warrant Officer A. Agamaglanov and O. Sultanov were residing. How could there be talk here about slander and lies, or about prejudice toward Agamaglanov from the members of the party bureau, with the possible exception of the unforgivable leniency as a result of which they did not attribute the necessary importance to the signal from the militia (apparently to no end)?

Like it or not, I had to doubt the sincerity of Agamagianov's letter to the editor. He did not tell the whole truth even concerning the change of apartments. There is the party bureau decree. They would not remit the punishment against Communist Agamaglanov until the reasons causing the reprimand, the facts of tactless behavior toward Sultanov were eliminated, and until the question of the apartment was resolved. But it is the warrant officer's former wife who is working on that problem, and not he. She is taking it to the authorities and he is maintaining the pose of an onlooker, although he knows very well that all that is needed is his request to the garrison commander and authorization to change apartments will be granted immediately. But he has not yet written such a request, and judging by everything does not want to do so.

Despite the official divorce, the apartment is the only thread which connects him with his family and his daughter. If it is broken there will be no way back, and somewhere in his heart he hopes that his family relationship will be restored. Therefore, although he gives the appearance of being indifferent to everything, he jealously watches when his current neighbor returns home, where she goes, and how she spends her spare time. That is also why he wrote the journal for help.

But can Warrant Officer Agamaglanov really be helped after everything which has happened? That is a difficult question for which there is no easy answer. It is clear only that love and respect cannot be regained through ultimatums and demands for fundamental changes in his surroundings. He must start with himself.

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ARMED FORCES

HELICOPTER USE IN TRAINING EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel V. Yerashev and Major A. Borovkov of the Order of Lenin Transbaykal Military District: "Riflemen of Motorized Units Attack From the Sky"]

[Text] Dawn had not yet come when the company under the command of Captain A. Skabitskiy arrived at the attack position for the landing. While cutting the thick air with their rotors, helicopters prepared for take-off were standing there on landing areas prepared in advance.

Having determined the flyover zone with the pilots and given definitive instructions, Captain Skabitskiy ordered the landing to commence. This time his subordinates were faced with operating in the leading group of a tactical airborne landing force.

From on board the helicopter, the area on which Captain Skabitskiy's subordinates were faced with landing looked like a small yellow five-kopeck coin which had been lost among the continuous range of hills. Looking intently at the taiga sea lying below, the officer didn't even find it right away. But this is where the helicopters descended, and a small space free of forest came into sight on a course in front of them. The pilot nodded expressively from the cockpit: he says they've arrived at the place.

The landing went successfully. But after a while the "enemy" nevertheless detected the landing force in his rear area and attempted to destroy it.

A heated battle developed. A critical situation arose. The "enemy" pressed hard from all sides. But Skabitskiy saw the situation in proper perspective. Having performed a maneuver, he dispatched a platoon under the command of Senior Lieutenant V. Vlasyuk to the deep envelopment [obkhod] of the "enemy's" main grouping, and whose operations the platoon pinned down by fire from the flank.

The battalion's main elements approached shortly after. Having listened to the report of the leading group commander, the battalion commander Major V. Spiridonov tried on the spot to take advantage of the result achieved for the exploitation of success. He directed the battalion's sharp attacks in the sector where the platoon dispatched to the deep envelopment was operating and smashed the opposing "enemy" with an all-out assault on the flank.

Now the landing force was faced with executing its primary task--detecting and destroying the "enemy's" command and control point. This was assigned to the subordinates of Lieutenant S. Rybalko. At the prescribed time, the young officer began communications and reported the successful execution of the mission.

However, Major Spiridonov knew by experience that the "enemy" will come to its senses very rapidly and no matter what happens will try to destroy the landing force. Reconnaissance information also confirmed this. The opposing side successfully regrouped its forces for all-out operations. Therefore, having left the screening group, the battalion secretly executed a march to the alternate region. The helicopters also were redirected there.

On the face of it, the battalion commander's plan was simple: to once again land the subunits [podrazdeleniye] via rotary-wing aircraft, execute a maneuver in the "enemy's" rear area and defeat him with a surprise attack.

On the march Major Spiridonov more and more frequently cast a glance at his watch. There was just enough time. The slightest lack of coordination here in the subunits' operations can wreck the entire plan. The more so as several times already the leading and flank march security patrols had to repel attacks of the "enemy's" small subunits.

Just as the riflemen of motorized units arrived at the assigned region, helicopters directed by Major A. Shalygin emerged from behind the hills. The landing exceeded accepted standards and the rotary-wing aircraft with the landing force on board took a course to a new landing site. The next move of the airborne troops proved to be a complete surprise for the "enemy." Having gotten behind the "enemy's" back once again, the battalion joined the battle. At this concluding stage of the military training exercise, the riflemen of motorized units were faced with executing weapons training practice. Captain V. Kholodnyy's subordinates especially distinguished themselves in this. The soldiers of this company hit all targets with the first shot and on the first turn.

Combat helicopters directed by Captain A. Almayev and Senior Lieutenants V. Lykov and A. Avanesov also made sniper firings.

The commander's accurate calculation, the efficient and skillful actions of riflemen of the motorized units, and their high gusto for the offensive predetermined the outcome of the battle. Operating in a tactical airborne assault, the battalion under Major Spiridonov's command coped fully with the combat training mission which was set.

At a critique of the concluding combat training exercise, the senior commander gave a high evaluation to the battalion's level of tactical and weapons training and expressed appreciation to all personnel.

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ARMED FORCES

DEVIATIONS IN COMMANDS DURING TRAINING EXERCISES

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 8, Aug 83 (signed to press 21 Jul 83) p 7

[Article by Col N. P'yavka: "'Unmarketable' Standards"]

[Text] At the control check in some training subunits of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District, the majority of the sergeants demonstrated high results in the basic subjects. However, many of them accomplished the standards for defense against weapons of mass destruction (ZOMP) with deviations from the procedure called for by the regulations, manuals, instruction, and pamphlets.

By the way, any standard, figuratively speaking, rests on "three legs": time, quantity, and quality. And the grade, naturally, is derived with consideration of this triune indicator.

Let us take the standard "Donning the combined-arms protective kit and gas mask." It has a number of versions. For example, on the commands "Cape using sleeves, leggings, gloves--don" and "Gas" it is necessary to perform several sequential operations: put on the protective leggings, protective capes using sleeves, gas masks, and protective gloves. It is precisely this method which will be employed most often in a combat situation. And here no one of those tested received an excellent grade. In the race for speed, Sergeants A. Pakhomov, A. Menzev, Yu. Filimonov, and others either put on the leggings with the straps fastened, or they did not fasten the prong holders with fasteners, or they violated the sequence for the accomplishment of the procedures. Petty details? No, these are serious blunders, for each of which the grades are reduced by one point.

Nor was everything smooth with actions at the vehicles on signals warning of radioactive, chemical, and bacteriological (biological) contamination. Seeing or hearing the signal "Chemical Alarm," squad leaders Sergeants N. Gol'tsov, V. Ukhvanisov, and others only repeated it by voice. None of them issued additional commands "Gas" and "Places" which determine the specific order for the use of means for individual and collective protection in the given situation.

Even in accomplishing, it would appear, the elementary standard "Putting on the gas mask (respirator)" Sergeants I. Zarobedov and P. Shchelkanov and Junior Sergeant I. Oystrin could not show a good time. Why? One had an incorrectly assembled gas mask--and this is the loss of 2-3 seconds and for the other it had been placed in the carrier haphazardly (minus 3-4 seconds). When putting on the respirator, some closed their eyes (by analogy with actions with the gas mask) and lost 3-5 seconds.

In talks with the sergeants, the question of so-called "unmarketable" standards arose. Let us clear one thing up at once--"unmarketable" not from the standpoint of their practical expediency, for each one realizes that any skill in ZOMP is important and necessary for the successful conduct of battle. We are speaking of something else. It was learned that on tactical and marching drill lessons and drills with the squad some sergeants devote special attention to working out the standards which have a direct influence on the accomplishment of the combat mission: to tactical (tactical-special) and firing training and driving. Toward the standards for subjects which support the battle, including those in ZOMP the attitude, using the expression of a famous poet, is "scornful." Some standards either are not studied at all or are not worked out in all their variants. The men are trained under easier conditions, as a rule, while in formation and on open terrain and rarely in shelters, vehicles, or in the course of a tactical and marching drill lesson. And you see, indulgences always have a negative effect on the molding of firm skills, which the control check also showed.

Moreover, some sergeants do not work out problems in ZOMP at all on tactical and marching drill lessons and drills (except for putting on the gas mask), saving the time for what in their opinion are the main standards, that is, for the main subjects of instruction.

There is also another psychological nuance. The specifics of lessons on ZOMP are such that they have a large degree of conventionality. For example, on tactical lessons and firings the soldier sees before him a specific even if conventionally designated target: an "enemy" strong point, the outline of positions, various targets, and so forth. On driving, technical, and special training he works in general with actual targets and instruments.

But in working out problems in ZOMP it is very difficult to create conditions which are as close as possible to actual combat as well as to evaluate the actions of the men with a full measure. One was late in donning the gas mask or protective kit or he forgot to issue additional commands when receiving a warning signal--this in no way is reflected in the situation of those who are undergoing field lessons. And during an attack from the march, for example, some sergeants do not monitor even the simplest thing when each minute is dear: does the soldier use the gas mask correctly or not? For there is no point in concealing that there are many ruses to ease one's actions in special equipment. Unfortunately noncommissioned officers at times close their eyes to this and permit indulgences.

And so it turns out that on check lessons the results of the sergeants and their subordinates in the accomplishment of ZOMP standards are one or two points lower than on the basic subjects of instruction.

Can this be avoided? Unquestionably. This is shown by the experience of leading sergeants such as M. Avdeyev, V. Matveyev, A. Nazaratyy, and others.

Where do they begin? First of all, with the accumulation of theoretical knowledge. One of the effective methods in this direction is: prior to each drill recalling the combat and damage-causing factors of nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological (biological) as well as incendiary weapons of the probable enemy

and the protective properties of equipment and individual means of protection. Little time is spent on this, but the value is unquestioned.

The procedure for mastering the standards is generally known--from element to element, from the simple to the difficult, first at a slow rate and then at a rate which ensures a high result.

The practice of establishing intermediate standards which meet the level of training of the personnel at a given period justifies itself. This permits maintaining in the men the striving to move forward and permits the sergeant to see more specifically who should be rendered what assistance in order to accomplish the training program completely by the established time.

The combination of knowledge and practical skills furthers the quality accomplishment of the standards. The men accustom themselves to conscious actions and involve their feelings. However, it is known that feelings are formed more slowly than knowledge is acquired. This means that the training should cause certain emotions in the men. This is attained only in the case where on each lesson and drill without exception an atmosphere of enthusiasm is created and purposefulness, persistence, and discipline are developed in oneself and his subordinates. Since the standard is evaluated for quantity, time, and quality, it is not difficult for the noncommissioned officer to maintain a spirit of rivalry and the striving to be first on lessons and drills.

An environment of rivalry can be created under the most diverse conditions: during the time for preparation of instruments and means of protection for their use, during hours for the care of armaments and combat and special equipment, and on vehicle-maintenance days. In short, the scope for the display of initiative by the sergeants is very broad.

Naturally, the problem of raising the quality of lessons and drills in defense against the probable enemy's weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, chemical weapons is not exhausted by those questions which have been touched upon in the article. And this problem will be solved the more successfully, the more profoundly the noncommissioned officers realize the necessity to regard ZOMP with full seriousness and responsibility, remembering that on the field of battle the slightest negligence may cost lives and failure to accomplish the assigned mission.

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ARMED FORCES

USE OF SIMULATORS FOR TRAINING TELEGRAPHISTS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 8, Aug 83 (signed to press 21 Jul 83) pp 14-15

[Article by Engr-Col M. Antonyuk, candidate of technical sciences: "A Simulator for Telegraphists"]

[Text] Contemporary equipment makes great demands with respect to specialist training quality and time limits. To reduce the time to train telegraphists and find an effective method for building up their skill--this is the task which the rationalizers of the Kiev Higher Military Engineering Twice Red Banner Communication School imeni M. I. Kalinin posed for themselves in creating the "Signal" adaptive simulator. The capabilities and operation of the innovation, which was demonstrated at the Central Exhibition of NTTM-82 [Scientific and Technical Creativity of the Youth], are discussed by one of its authors, Candidate of Technical Sciences and Engineer-Colonel M. I. Antonyuk.

It is no secret that the existing procedure for teaching telegraphists work on keyboard equipment as well as the technical base being used do not ensure in sufficient measure an individual approach in training future communication specialists. And this, naturally, has a negative effect on both the quality and time limits for the training of operators.

Actually, any procedure is worked out proceeding from the principle of collective (group) instruction. Here, it includes a number of mandatory stages: the instructor prepares the texts of the assignments, presents them to the trainees, and then checks the correctness of their accomplishment. Of course, in one measure or another the procedure presumes consideration of the trainees' individual features. Let us say that in conducting an analysis of the assignments, the instructor should subsequently introduce the appropriate corrections in the exercises in order to eliminate typical errors. However, it is impossible to take into consideration all the individual differences of the future specialists in the technique for transmitting symbols: many dozens and even hundreds of variants of the exercises would be needed. Willing or not, it is necessary to prepare the appropriate correction texts based on the average trainee.

Another substantial shortcoming of such procedures is the instructor's great expenditure of time on preparation for the lesson and the insufficiently productive course of the lesson itself.

First of all, each lesson must be worked out, that is, texts of symbols of a specific alphabet should be prepared in accordance with specific rules. Then the texts are combined into lessons, each of which is intended for the molding of a skill in transmitting one or another symbol. It is also necessary to include as part of the exercises texts which serve to eliminate the trainees' typical errors.

On the lesson, much time is required for the presentation of the assignments, for the accompanying explanation, and then for the collection of information on the course of the instruction. For the majority of the trainees, time is expended here with low effectiveness.

The instructor's capabilities are also limited in the operational interference in the process of mastering practical skills, that is, in the disclosure of typical errors and the issuing of appropriate recommendations for their elimination. For this, he must make a thorough study of how the assignment is accomplished and, on the basis of the analysis, prepare the correction text. As a rule the analysis cannot be made here in the classroom: this process is rather laborious. Thus, the correction text must be presented to the trainee, in the best case, in the next class.

The introduction of contemporary means of automation in the training process permits eliminating the majority of the shortcomings inherent in the training of telegraphists. The "Signal" adaptive simulator which was created in our school copes with this task successfully. Its use frees the instructor from the mechanical and fatiguing work in preparing the texts of the assignments and reduces by more than half the time for training the operators.

In its design (see Figure 1) the simulator recalls a telegraph set (the keyboard panel used is precisely from a telegraph apparatus). This is all the more essential in that the trainee immediately becomes accustomed to his future work station.

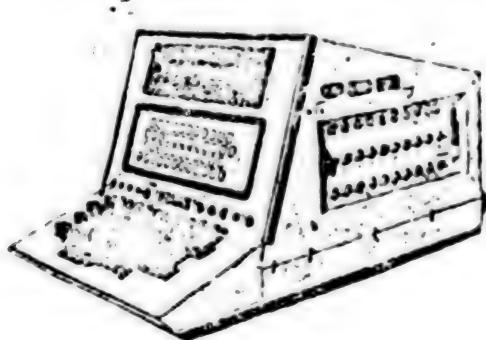


Figure 1.

The illuminated indicator board of the keyboard is directly in front of the operator's eyes. The location of the key which should be struck with the finger at a given moment is shown on it. A symbol indication panel GIPS-16 and a line of light-emitting diodes are placed a little higher. Sixteen symbols arranged in a certain sequence and which the operator should transmit light up on the GIPS-16 panel.

These symbols are a fragment of the assignment. The total number of symbols in the assignment is sufficient for transmission during a day of work. Let us note in passing that there are almost 1,000 such assignments stored in the simulator's "memory" so that their selection is vast.

The line of light-emitting diodes serves as a unique prompter for the operator. It informs him of what symbol should be transmitted at a given moment. With the correct transmission the next light-emitting diode lights up (moving from left to right). But if the operator committed an error, the next light-emitting diode does not light up and the same one continues to shine. The operator realizes that the action must be repeated.

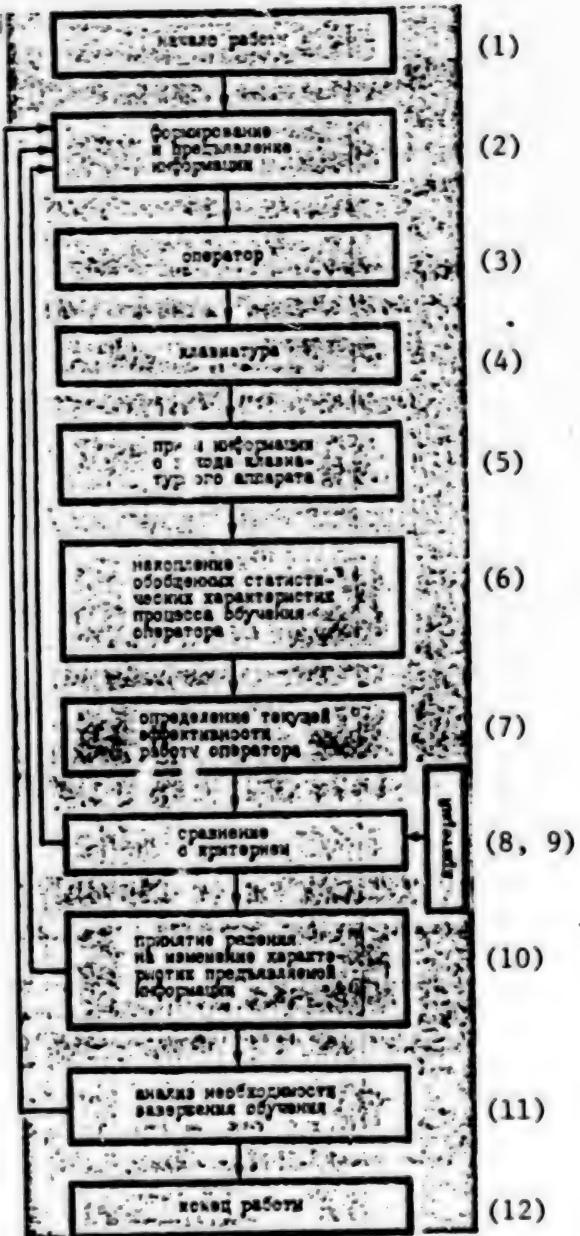
The simulator conforms as closely as possible to the individual features of the trainee. Automatically recording the errors which have been committed, it presents the correction text to the trainee efficiently and without outside interference, that is, it puts out the appropriate structure of symbols. In practice, this appears as follows. Let us assume that the operator commits an error in transmitting the letter "zh." The simulator instantaneously records this error which the trainee himself notices on a special indicator located below the indicator board of the keyboard.

But it is not enough that the error is recorded and the attention of the operator is directed to it. After the transmission of the sixteenth symbol, a new combination is put out on the GIPS-16 panel in which the number of "zh" symbols is automatically increased. The simulator seems to say to the trainee: "You are unable to transmit this symbol--learn it." And when the operator acquires the correct skill in transmitting the symbol the frequency of its appearance in subsequent combinations decreases. Exactly this pattern arises when the operator commits any other error regardless of which alphabet (Russian, Latin) or which text (lettered, digital, or mixed) is used in the transmission here.

It is known that some of the operators are able to transmit more rapidly than the majority of the trainees, and others--more slowly. The simulator also considers these qualities of the telegraphists: it automatically readjusts itself to a specific transmission speed within a range of from 9 to 500 symbols per minute. In which regard, the speed number shines on the indicator panel.

The capabilities of the simulator are still not completely used at present although even now its effectiveness is significant. In fact, along with a high degree of individualization of instruction its design also envisions the variant of group training of the telegraphists.

The algorithm of the simulator's operation is presented in Figure 2, and its realization can be seen on the block diagram of the device (Figure 3). It should be stressed that each letter (symbol) of the alphabet participates in the functioning of the circuit in the form of a specific code combination. The "heart" of the device is a code combination sensor (DKK) which generates and shapes the code combinations of the text assignment symbols. The symbols are shaped on the basis of a recurrent sequence of great length and appear pseudorandomly.

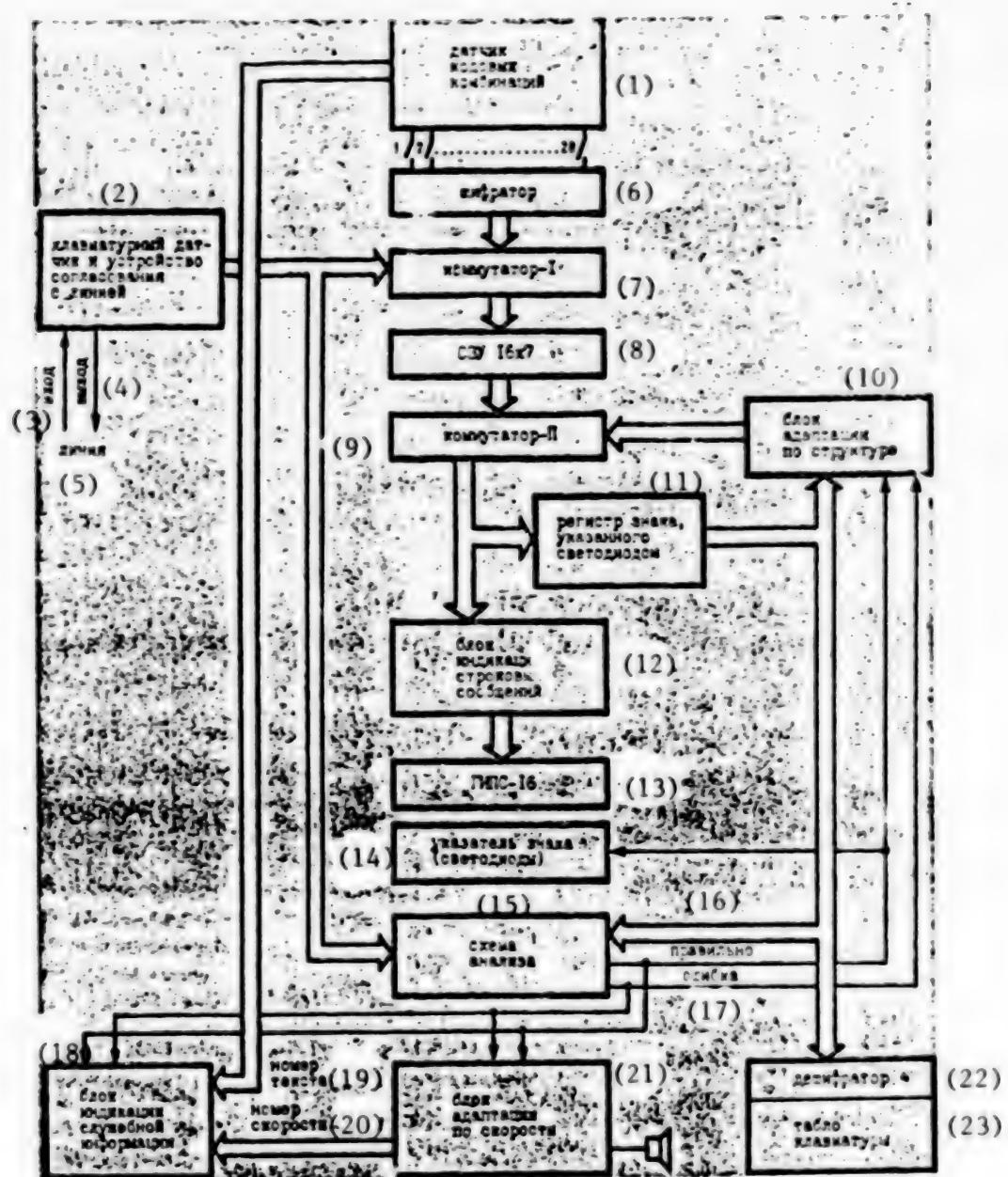


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Figure 2.

Key:

1. Start of operation	7. Determination of current effectiveness of operator's work
2. Formation and presentation of information	8. Comparison with criterion
3. Operator	9. Criterion
4. Keyboard	10. Adoption of decision to change characteristics of information presented
5. Reception of information from output of keyboard apparatus	11. Analysis of necessity to complete training
6. Accumulation of generalized statistical characteristics of operator training process	12. End of operation



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Figure 3.

Key:

1. Code combination sensor	10. Unit for adaptation for structure
2. Keyboard sensor and device for matching with line	11. Register of symbol indicated by light-emitting diode [LED]
3. Input	12. Block for indicating line reports
4. Output	13. GIPS-16
5. Line	14. Symbol indicator (LED)
6. Decoder	15. Analysis circuit
7. Switch-I	16. Correct
8. Main memory	17. Error
9. Switch-II	18. Block for indicating service information

Figure 3 (Continued)

19. Text number	22. Decoder
20. Speed number	23. Keyboard indicator board
21. Block for adaptation for speed	

A keyboard sensor (KD) serves for the output of code combinations of symbols. It is a single block with a device for coupling with a line and is intended for the connection of the simulator with other simulators or the instructor's control panel.

Switch-I ensures the passage of code combinations of symbols either from the DKK or from the KD. Information of 16 code combinations, that is, the assignment text, goes through it to the main memory (OZU-16 x 7). The block for adaptation for structure (BASTR) serves to change the structure of the assignment text. The symbols on which the trainee makes errors are recorded in its memory. In the work process, these symbols will be presented to the operator more often than others through switch II.

The register of the symbol indicated by the light-emitting diode is intended for the recording of the code combinations of the symbol being transmitted at a given moment. Information goes from the register of the symbol to the symbol indicator (line of light-emitting diodes) which serves to prompt the trainee as to which key he should strike.

The lighting-up of the symbols recorded in the OZU 16 x 7 on the indicator board with self-scanning (GIPS-16) is accomplished by the block for indicating line reports. This block also gives the trainee graphical information, that is, the assignment text itself.

An evaluation of the correctness of the symbols' transmission is accomplished by the analysis circuit. If the transmitted symbol is the one which is required, the circuit puts out a "Correct" signal; in the other cases, an "Error" signal appears.

The block for adaptation of speed (BASK) serves to put out sound markers with the frequency of which the operator should conduct the transmission. It is namely the BASK which permits the simulator to consider the individual features of the operator. If the trainee transmits the symbols correctly, the transmission speed is increased. If he commits an error, it is decreased.

The display of service information is also envisioned in the simulator. The number of transmitted symbols and errors committed, text numbers, and values of transmission speeds are recorded in a special indicator (IV-28).

The work of the telegraphists on the simulator can be conducted in three modes: self-monitoring, following the symbols, and adaptation for speed.

The self-monitoring mode is used at the initial stage of training the operators. In this case, symbols transmitted from the keyboard light up on the indicator board of the GIPS-16 panel. In which regard the code combinations of these symbols are recorded in the OZU 16 x 7.

In the mode of following the symbols, symbols formed by the code combination sensor light up behind the symbols on the panel of the GIPS-16. The next symbol which should be transmitted is illuminated by a light-emitting diode and recorded on the indicator board of the keyboard. This operating mode is used most often. Also possible with it is adaptation for structure, that is, those symbols on which the trainee makes errors are presented to him more often. The number of symbols transmitted and the number of errors are considered on the service information display board.

In principle the adaptation mode does not differ from the following mode. The symbols are also formed by the code combination sensor and light up on the GIPS-16 panel. However, the trainee conducts the transmission with the speed of the sound markers formed by the BASK and not at an arbitrary rate. This speed is also visible on the service information display board.

Officer candidates A. Boldyrev, M. Malevanny, A. Pogorelov, and A. Shevchenko participated actively in working out the scheme and the design of the simulator. The packaging of such a complex device in a volume comparatively small in its dimensions became possible thanks to the employment of a contemporary micro-element base in its design.

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ARMED FORCES

WARRANT OFFICER CHARGED IN PERSONAL USE OF MILITARY ITEMS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 83 (signed to press 23 Aug 83) p 30

[Article by Col Justice I. Chupalenkov, Honored Jurist of the USSR: "Court Is in Session"]

[Text] "It is necessary to completely end such phenomena as instances in which state and public property and one's position are used for personal enrichment. If one thinks about it this is nothing other than the undermining of the very essence of our system. In this matter the law must be uncompromising and its application inevitable." (From the speech of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, General Secretary, Central Committee, CPSU at the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum.)

It is the large auditorium in the club at "N" unit. Warrant officers from the garrison are present. They are attentive and serious. Even the veterans do not remember such a thing happening here. A military tribunal will try Warrant Officer V. Voznyuk, chief of the clothing warehouse. And I, having seen and experienced a great deal in my profession as a military jurist, understand very well the mood of those assembled. One who even yesterday had enjoyed the general trust is today sitting trial. He had infringed upon public property and cast a shadow of shame not only on his unit, but on those who, like himself, hold the rank of warrant officer.

Voznyuk sits, his head lowered, afraid to look in the eyes of his colleagues.

"Please rise! Court is in session!" proclaims the bailiff.

Presiding Col Justice A. Zavalishchev and warrant officers A. Lazarev and I. Vinichenko, the people's jurors, approach the bench and take their places.

"Please be seated!" The voice of Col Justice Zavalishchev rings out in the ensuing silence. "This court session of the military tribunal is declared open. Criminal proceedings are before the court concerning the accusation against Warrant Officer V. Voznyuk for committing a crime covered by Article 92, Part 2 of the RSFSR Criminal Code, to wit, repreated misappropriation of state property."

How had Voznyuk fallen to such a life? What did he lack in order to live and serve his homeland honorably and deservedly, according to his oath and his conscience?

The court carefully looks into everything. Voznyuk is not yet 30. He has behind him 10 years of civilian schooling, active compulsory service, work in the civilian economy and warrant officer school. He is married and has a 3-year-old daughter. He is not a Communist Party member. All of his evaluations except for last year's have been favorable.

For a long time his colleagues and supervisors could not discern from his outward diligence and efficiency the other side of Voznyuk, who had entered the army and put on the shoulder-boards of a warrant officer, not in order to serve as he had sworn to do, but to attempt to steal and live for his own pleasure. In 1978, having just begun his service at the clothing warehouse, he sold a "civilian female acquaintance" 100 soldiers' bedsheets. Then he wrote them off using false documentation. Such things are not done without "moral preparation" and without prior and painstakingly thought-out malicious intent. Inspectors came, but did not detect the false documentation or the shortage of sheets. Soon Voznyuk also stole other things, and this crime also remained unnoticed. The thefts became more frequent and their size increased. He swiped one thing after another without shame or conscience. Convicted by the evidence against him, Voznyuk detailed how he accomplished it, how he misused the trust of his supervisors and colleagues. Noise rose in the hall as those present became indignant.

Without shame or conscience. I repeat the words which most clearly describe the moral fall of Voznyuk, who broke the law, regulations and his solemn oath to "in every way safeguard military and public property."

And what about those with whom Voznyuk stood in ranks, took political training, and studied military subjects? Could no one have noticed that he was not a man of his word and that he was clearly living beyond his means? Many saw and knew, but did not stop and correct their subordinate and colleague.

Through the fault of rear services officers E. Enshteyn and F. Borovikov for 3 years there had been no inventory taken in the depot where Voznyuk was in charge. The "inspectors" who did not trouble themselves by checking the actual presence of property in the depot also helped him. Witnesses Dovzhenko, Tonkonogov and Ovchinnikov saw the warrant officer transfer clothing to the bath-house bar maid. They saw, however they showed no interest in why he was doing it, and moreover did not report their suspicions to the command. A feeling of false friendship silenced the voice of their military duty.

It is not for nothing that it is said: "One falls into misfortune as into a precipice, but into crime step-by-step." The psychology of one who picks the state's pocket is wretched. The motives for his actions are also unusually simple and primitive: "Our state is rich; if I take some it will not become poor..." His crimes may not have happened had the subunit maintained an atmosphere of irreconcilability toward petty-bourgeois psychology,

money-grubbing and social egoism, and ably countered these traits with the spiritual and moral principles of socialism.

"Defendant Voznyuk," asks the prosecutor, "What was your material situation? Perhaps you were in need, your income was insufficient to support your family?"

No, it turns out that his money was fully adequate. Even the warrant officer's wife confirms this.

"I sold property to have money for liquor," explained Voznyuk (not solely for this we note). I drank almost every day, frequently on duty, and several co-workers got drunk with me."

Drinking bouts became more and more frequent, and Voznyuk did not hide them. It had been necessary to annotate his last efficiency report: "inclined toward drunkenness." And no one became alarmed. What is this? Obliviousness toward the interests of the service? Unconcern? Scatter-brained behavior? Call it what you will, but it is precisely such disregard of their military obligations on the part of responsible officials which might have made it possible for another Voznyuk to develop. (Skipping ahead let me say that all of his superiors received the strictest disciplinary punishments.)

The session of the military tribunal was nearing an end. All aspects of the crime had been examined and all reasons which contributed to it. Now I must stress one important thought. No matter what the circumstances may have been which led to the extreme incident in "N" unit, the accused must answer for them. It is now too late and of no use for a grown man and father to share his guilt with his parents, teachers or commanders and mentors. The law places total criminal responsibility on him and him alone!

What could the defense lawyer say? Lawyer V. Kosarev asked the tribunal to take into account the fact that the accused had a young daughter.

"But did he think about the child's happiness when he stole?" the warrant officer sitting next to me said indignantly. "They are using his daughter in his defense!"

"And his wife, the mother, I would add."

"Voznyuk, V. P. shall be deprived of his freedom and sent to a corrective labor colony, standard regime, for a period of 6 years, and subsequently shall be deprived of the right to occupy a duty position of material responsibility and shall have exacted from him the full measure of the material loss which he caused."

The open court of the military tribunal clearly reminded everyone of the inevitability of retribution against the lawbreaker. In addition it showed that vigilance must not be slackened, that it is important not only for one to himself safeguard military property in every way possible, but also to

call to account in a timely fashion anyone who tries to infringe upon public property or who does not want to serve as his duty and conscience require. Our oath and regulations require this of us, pursuant to the materials of the historic June CPSU Central Committee plenum.

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ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE USE OF MILITARY VEHICLES CRITICIZED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 83 (signed to press 23 Aug 83) p 22

[Article by Yu. Konorov, ZNAMENOSETS correspondent: "Personal Vehicle"]

[Text] In the sky the aircraft flew by, shattering the silence. Combat training was in progress. Warrant Officer V. Vostrikov, chief of the parachute equipment supply depot, as usual jumped on the footboard of the transport vehicle, which was shaking as if with impatience, and, seating himself more comfortably, commanded the driver:

"Get going, old boy!"

Pvt S. Karabanov carefully (parachute packers, privates V. Val'ter and S. Khrenov, were sitting in the back) pressed on the clutch and was about to engage the transmission when the senior occupant held back his hand:

"Where are you planning to go?"

"Where?" the driver asked in surprise. "To the landing strip to collect parachutes."

"There is always time for that," laughed the warrant officer, and he ordered in a business-like manner:

"To the depot!"

After a few minutes privates Karabanov, Khrenov and Val'ter had loaded the vehicle with firewood at the billeting and maintenance warehouse. Later they neatly stacked it in the yard of Warrant Officer Vostrikov. None of the soldiers were surprised that instead of performing military training they had suddenly become "patrons" of the family of their immediate supervisor. This had become commonplace.

One of Warrant Officer Vostrikov's neighbors even wrote a letter to the editor about this: "Soldiers work in his yard during duty hours, sawing, chopping and stacking wood. If the parents of these soldiers could see what their sons were doing while in the service, they would be indignant!"

The soldiers' parents do not see them, but the letter alerted the editors.

I went to the home of Warrant Officer Vostrikov. Frankly, nothing in the yard gave the impression of this thoughtful "patronage." Boards were thrown down in the shed in disorder, and in the garden there was a wooden frame, evidently for a future hotbed. However, no one was working in either the fruit or vegetable garden. Was the author of the letter exaggerating?

No, he was not exaggerating.

Investigation confirmed many of the facts put forth in the letter. The vehicle designated to support military work was rather often used by Warrant Officer Vostrikov for personal matters. It hauled boards for the shed, the frame for the family's hotbed, and gas cylinders. I emphasize that all of this was done not in the vehicle specially allocated by the unit for household needs, but in a vehicle designated for military work, the vehicle which had become almost the "personal" transportation of Warrant Officer Vostrikov. Moreover, "patronage" work was carried out not only for his own family. Services were also rendered to his friends.

I went to Warrant Officer Vostrikov's home and asked why this was taking place and what he thought about his own conduct. Vostrikov and his wife saw it all in their own way. Both were most indignant that "malicious" neighbors were interfering with their ability to calmly settle into their new home. It is hard to re-create word for word the "impassioned speech" of this pair of still rather young people. Its meaning boils down to the following: Don't they need to have heat and to be able to prepare their food? What is the harm if the vehicle carries "ownerless" boards and if soldiers help to load and unload firewood? "I didn't order them, I asked them!" Vostrikov repeated several times.

I listened to the agitated couple without interrupting, although I very much wished to tell them about my unforgettable meeting with Captain N. Vovkotrubenko in one of the distant garrisons. Like Warrant Officer Vostrikov, that officer had just begun his service in a new location. Initially, due to a lack of apartments, he had to live in the medical aid station facilities. During his brief-off-duty hours Nikolay Ivanovich went several kilometers into town to phone his wife, who, along with their small daughter, was living with her mother in expectation of better times ahead. However, service in the subunit entrusted to Captain Vovkotrubenko continued normally, with no disruptions, although for a long time his letters to his wife, in which he urged her to "be a little patient," retained in their envelopes the distinctive smell of medications.

Unfortunately I was never able to tell them. They simply did not want to listen to me. And I felt that Warrant Officer Vostrikov would not understand me. I just could not understand why he, having received a detached home with a plot of land at the very outset of his tour of duty, decided to accommodate himself at the expense of the subunit. It was also unclear to me why the unit did not notice how radically his attitude toward his work had changed.

You see, it was not always this way, as the past favorable evaluations of Warrant Officer Vostrikov indicate. But here are the latest entries in his record of service card: "Reprimand," "Strict reprimand for improper actions at the signal to assemble." His effort at work dissolved in his all-absorbing concern for his own personal welfare.

This could not help but morally harm the cause of educating his subordinates. You see, it is not all that difficult to establish a logical connection between following facts. Today privates Val'ter, Khrenov and Aristov work during duty hours at the home of their chief. That is, in essence they avoid military training with his consent. And tomorrow Private Aristov is absent without leave from the unit.

More and more often Vostrikov is mentioned among the violators of discipline in the unit. It would seem that life itself demands that effective measures be taken. What does Captain S. Popov, Warrant Officer Vostrikov's immediate commander, think with respect to this? Why does he permit the use of vehicles allotted to him for the personal needs of his subordinate?

"This is the first time I have heard about it!" stated Comrade Popov categorically.

But this is clearly not accurate.

Captain Popov had been told repeatedly about Warrant Officer Vostrikov's misuse of his military position. His neighbors, indignant at the widespread use of military vehicles, reported to the unit in person and by phone. They asked that it be looked into. Major N. Babkin, the political officer, also warned Popov about it. Finally, the parking area for the special vehicle was located 10 steps from Captain Popov's place of duty. Only an unseeing person, or one who does not wish to notice, could "not notice" its absence.

How had Captain Popov reacted to the signals which he had received? Always the same way. He promised to look into them, but then forgot. He forgot to look into them, and he forgot about the signals.

The private ownership psychology of Warrant Officer Vostrikov had still not been appraised as it should have been by the unit's command and party organization. No one ever told Warrant Officer Vostrikov: Stop, before it is too late!

It would seem that the time has long come to call a spade a spade. If we call Warrant Officer Vostrikov a "carrier," or rather a "hauler" that is one thing. He strives to profit himself at the expense of his unit, and that means at the expense of the state. But today to "not notice" such facts--that is a most flagrant breach of position. The June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum noted that it is necessary to completely end such phenomena as the use of state and public property and official position for mercenary motives. I believe it is necessary to start now, and not wait until "petty" slip ups and deviations turn into serious breaches. The command, political

officers, party organization and every military collective must declare relentless and uncompromising war against "carriers" and "haulers." Passivity is inadmissible.

I was returning from my trip. The road to the bus terminal passed by the garages of the officers and warrant officers. Again I saw a vehicle with a military serial number. True, this time it was carrying not firewood, but bricks, and Jr Sgt F. Gilyazov and privates V. Kravchenko and A. Pazushkin were digging a cellar in the garage of an officer in Taranenko's unit.

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ARMED FORCES

GUARD CAPTAIN LYAMZIN CITED FOR KOMSOMOL WORK

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Zhitarenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent for the Moscow Military District, in the column "Outstanding Army and Navy Personnel": "Give Me the Tough Jobs!..."]

[Text] The company had acted boldly, decisively. Finding himself at the enemy lines, Guard Capt M. Lyamzin could not take time out to enjoy the success of the young soldiers. Awareness of the fact that he had personally participated in this success himself was firmly established later when the division commander stated:

"Komsomol members of the second motorized rifle company gave a very good account of themselves. Also noteworthy was the meritorious action of the assistant chief of the political department for komsomol work, Guard Capt Lyamzin..."

Permanently inscribed in the roll of the second company is the name of Guard Sgt A. Nosov, Hero of the Soviet Union. His initiative has long been legend here--"Destroy the target as Nosov did: go after it from the first shot right up to the range limits." Recently, however, there has been an apparent decline in the prevalence of this attitude. Guard Capt S. Korotkov, in a confidential conversation with Lyamzin, decried the various "organizational discrepancies" which have cropped up with regard to so-called tactical problems; they have interfered with plan-targeted training. The very same day, the Komsomol worker paid a visit to the division commander. The general promised help: the second company really should be held in special repute. But Lyamzin was spending more and more of his time with the subunit. There was concern that the riflemen had stopped putting forth the effort, that the skills of the best specialists are generalizations existing for the most part "on paper", and that few of these outstanding specialists are of any help in hastening their colleagues' entry into service. Indeed, a plethora of "knotty" problems was demanding resolution.

At times he would hear: just what is the scale of your operations, Mikhail Alekseyevich? It seems your field of view must encompass the Komsomol activities of the entire division! He could hardly forget the "scale": various and sundry gatherings and meetings, training of the Komsomol membership, coordinating the political indoctrination work with the young people in the units, receiving new comrades into the VLKSM[Komsomol], planning for the future... Put,

in dealing with these and many other problems, the situation in the second motorized rifle company was far from secondary for him. And he is thereby taking great pleasure now in the fact that the success of the overall operation has become apparent.

The second was, however, not the only one he considered "his" company. By the end of the school year, there was quite a lot of effusive talk concerning the successes of the tank troops. The company in which Sgt V. Kalabukhov is the secretary for Komsomol organization has only two specialists second class--the rest are first class. Much of this is the work of the commander. The enjoyment the tank troops take in combat procedures was further enhanced by their participation in war games and combat exercises, question-and-answer periods, and contests to name the best driver and gunner. It is noteworthy that a frequent sponsor of, and indispensable participant in these doings was Guard Capt M. Lyamzin.

In the missile subunit wherein the Komsomol organization is headed by Sr Lt V. Veselov, combat operations training standards are being exceeded by as much as seven percent. And, indeed, at the beginning, these indicators seemed almost inaccessible to the young missilemen. Veselov--a former crew chief--is a specialist with golden hands. Clearly, however, the challenge of organizational and political indoctrination work in the collective was not enough for him. Who was it, if not the assistant chief of the political section for Komsomol work, who took it upon himself to support the youthful secretary. He did it.

The young secretary says of him that he will tackle the very toughest jobs. And there is no exaggeration in this appraisal. Mikhail Lyamzin became a Komsomol worker soon after graduating with distinction from the Novosibirsk Higher Military-Political Joint Service Academy imeni 60th Anniversary of the Great October. He is a marksman with many types of arms, skillfully operates infantry combat vehicles, and genuinely loves working with young people. The badge titled, "For Dedicated Work in the Komsomol", awarded by the Komsomol Central Committee, was given him in recognition of his meritorious service in this specific type of work.

"There is still so much to be done!"--as Capt Lyamzin is wont to say. And these are not just words. His temperament can be expressed by a single word: tirelessness. He is upset by the fact that Guard Sr Lt V. Tolopilo received low grades on his final exams, that riflemen in the first motorized rifle company of the N-unit('chast') are not gaining confidence on the firing range, that some Komsomol workers have still not abandoned stereotyped ideas in working with young people...

Many problems and their solutions as yet lay ahead for Komsomol worker, Guard Capt Lyamzin, whose operative motto is: "Give me the tough jobs!"

9481
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ARMED FORCES

INADEQUACIES NOTED IN TRAINING OF MISSILE BATTERIES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Captain V. Breusov, missile range officer: "Finish Your Training on the Missile Range'...": "Since the Final Training Sessions"]

[Text] I have long been acquainted with these two missile-batteries; they are both situated on the same military base, they study and they discharge their duties under identical conditions. It is only in their attitudes toward combat training that they differ. This past spring, and quite recently as well, the battery which is under the command of Guard Captain V. Velikiy conducted a series of exercises on the missile range which resulted in rather low scores. The overall evaluation obtained from firing results placed the subunit in the middle of the standings. But this circumstance, so it seemed to me, does not especially disturb the missilemen. Many of them employ this rationale: the battery cannot now obtain a high summary evaluation, therefore, there is no point in making any further effort to post high grades in the other subjects of combat training.

Indeed, from all the evidence, putting forth effort is something to which they are not accustomed here. How else to explain, for example, this fact: after the unsuccessful missile fire, we, the range officers, conducted some training sessions with crews of the subunit, and this time they performed in outstanding fashion on the very same exercises.

In analyzing the performance of the battery's missilemen, it is apparent that the unimpressive results derived from the poor organizational approach and outright indifference of certain missile-battery officers to the outcome of the range testing. It is apparent that the firing supervisor, PVO[air defense] regiment chief, Guard Lt Col A. Sleta, poorly organized the target search, and that Guard Capt V. Velikiy did not give the command to open fire in time, and thus the mobile missile launchers were late in beginning to fire.

Along with battery officers, Guard Sr Lt V. Zhidchenko and Guard Sr Lt A. Kuz'minskiy, I had occasion to analyze one of the errors associated with the diving target firing exercise. Jointly, we arrived at a simple explanation: the period for effective firing at the target after the point at which it began to fall, simulating a diving target, amounted to six seconds. Subsequently, the missiles

reach it as it falls to earth. What are we to make of the fact that the range corridors of the mobile missile launchers reached the target at its exact impact point on the ground? It appears that people did not even look into such fine points.

The principle reason abides in the fact that the training process for the missile-men is not properly coordinated. More often than other specialists, their attention is diverted to areas not within plan objectives. Is anyone concerned about this? Apparently not. I happened to overhear a staff officer reassure the men of the battery following their unsuccessful showing:

"It doesn't matter--finish your training on the missile range. They will give you some real missions there--so continue your training..."

Why does a tank regiment staff officer engage in such facile and thoughtless rationalization? Could it be because the graded evaluation of a missile-battery, whether it be a five or a three, does not substantially militate against the overall final grade index of the unit. The total grade depends primarily on the results achieved by the tank battalions. And it is they who are accorded maximum attention during the combat training process. Misslemen are relegated to what are termed secondary roles.

And despite all this, it is still impossible to shift responsibility from missile-battery officers. If they would all put forth diligent, purposeful and persistent efforts, staff training levels would be significantly higher.

The situation is quite the opposite with the neighboring battery in the guard tank regiment bearing the Order of Orshanskiy III Class. Here, Guard Lt Col N. Telegin, PVO unit chief, assumes an attitude of total responsibility in organizing the training of his subordinates. In all aspects of training, he makes a concerted effort with the battery commander, Guard Capt V. Piskunoviy, to establish an environment which is maximally similar to actual combat: he does not tolerate indulgence and oversimplification. This is why his missile crews are equal to every complex situation which we can devise for them on the missile range.

The subunit received an excellent evaluation on the range. From here, the members of the battery departed for tactical training. And there as well, they acquitted themselves flawlessly. We learned of this from other examiners. As a matter of fact, our opinions in the matter closely coincided.

However, opinions also coincided regarding the subordinates of Guard Lt Col A. Sietta: it seems that the battery headed by Guard Capt V. Velikiy performed poorly in these exercises as well.

So it is: two missile-batteries of the same type, living and working alongside each other. But the results of their training are vastly different. And this is what is especially puzzling: the highly skilled leaders in their field are literally only a few steps away from the laggards.

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ARMED FORCES

INADEQUACIES NOTED IN MILITARY FOOD STORAGE FACILITIES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen Intendance Service Ye. Gol'dberg, head of the Main Trade Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense, in the column "Lifestyle--A Common Concern": "Storage Without Losses"; slantlines indicate article subdivision]

[Text] In accordance with decrees of the 26th CPSU Congress, the party and the government are giving their undivided attention to advancing the welfare of the people, as well as adopting measures to ensure consistent improvement in the supply of high-demand commodities to the populace and expanding the volume and variety of services.

Meanwhile, the level and the nature of service rendered is still lagging behind the needs of the Soviet people, thus becoming a target for their justifiable reproaches. That which was sufficient for us yesterday is today already unable to meet our needs. This is why the party is now undertaking the task of--not simply developing the human services sphere--but developing it quickly. It must be stated directly: insofar as trade in the military sector is concerned, this aim is not being achieved.

Looking only at such urgent problems as coordinating the supply of foodstuffs, especially fruits and vegetables, to military bases and garrisons, these operations have improved markedly within recent years. It is nonetheless true that on the whole they remain below the level of current requirements.

No doubt, trade agencies deserve a solid share of the blame for this. We have not been able as yet to completely overcome the lack of coordination in deliveries: at times, we make rather inefficient use of transport, as well as material and labor resources. There are still a good many instances in which our workers do not exhibit the requisite degree of persistence, or timeliness, after all. In other words, there is not enough of a sense of responsibility for living up to the service obligation. Not single such case will be left without appropriate action being taken.

However, in the matter of improving commercial service and supplying military bases and garrisons with agricultural produce, it is not up to us to shoulder the entire burden. Many factors determine the level of development of the logistical base. Simply stated, we must maintain a far-flung network of depots

and storehouses in order to provide for timely and efficient receipt of consignments and ensure that they retain their freshness. To this end, the Main Trade Directorate develops annual plans for maximizing the construction capacity for refrigerated storage facilities for fruits and vegetables. In part, they are constructed by the so-called economic method, using an organization's own resources, but the primary role here is taken by military contract engineers./

/Within recent years, military engineers have erected and put into use hundreds of large-scale projects intended for private and commercial use: warehouses and stores, dining halls and tea rooms, garment-making shops and private services enterprises. Smoothly and conscientiously carrying out their duties, our primary contractors in the Far East, Leningrad, Volga, Belorussian and Carpathian Military Districts annually make full and efficient use of the funds allocated for construction of commercial projects. In other districts, however, and in the Navy as well, planning deadlines for the release of completed projects to users are often not met; there is chronic failure to make full use of allocated funds. Here are some specifics.

Two produce storehouses were supposed to have been put into use in the Transbaykal in 1981. They are still under construction at this time. The deadline for release of a cold storage facility to the user passed in 1982, and even now it has not been put into service. Four years--instead of the standard period of one year--have elapsed in the building of a produce storehouse for the Northern Fleet. It is here also in the current year that the completion and release of a number of important military commercial projects is going awry, because a total of only 30 percent of planned allocations has been exploited.

The trade center in Baltiysk has now been under construction for five years, and the end is not in sight. From all appearances, the military commercial storage complex in Kaliningrad, which now is already into its third year of construction, also will not be put into use this year. Every kind of appeal and petition addressed to the department of construction of the Baltic Fleet has so far failed to bring successful results. Since 1977, construction engineers of the Baltic Military District have been erecting a military commercial warehouse, but thus far are unable to complete it--resorting to various excuses. Judging by everything, this year, as well, we will receive instead of a warehouse the usual explanations of why the construction will not be finished. And this is in addition to the fact that, as was shown by a recent check, the district is capable of providing accommodations for less than 40 percent of the goods requiring storage. More than half of the existing stores distributed to storage areas are kept in accommodations which do not meet the elementary requirements for a commercial enterprise.

A typical example: within the logistical system which serves the Riga garrison, including headquarters and district control, the turnover of commodities has doubled during the past five years. But, for now, it does not possess the needed storage capacity in terms of refrigerated space and storehouses for maintaining comestible and industrial goods. The accommodations leased for this purpose are clearly unsuitable. And this is in Riga--there is no point in even discussing any of the other garrisons.

The impression is formed that the district department of construction, in carrying out the production plan for other types of construction, has come to regard the building of commercial projects as a matter of secondary importance. There is no other way to explain the fact that during 1981-82, only 32 percent of the funds allocated for this purpose was exploited.

Similar such situations have developed in the Transbaykal, Turkestan, Central Asian and Moscow Military Districts, and in the Northern and Baltic Fleets. As a result, the logistical systems are unable to fully provide consumers with, among other things, the fruits and vegetables which were allotted to the army and navy from government storage bins.

If all of the depots and storehouses planned for this year had been put into service, military logistics could have nearly tripled supplies of potatoes, fruits and vegetables from this year's harvest to the garrisons and military bases./

/In fact, a very good example is provided by the garrison in which construction of military commercial projects is carried out by the military construction collective under Maj Gen A. Fedorov, where because of the lack of storage space for deliveries of fruits and vegetables, there are only enough to last until January of next year. Inexcusably slow construction work on commercial projects is being seen here from one year to the next: only a little more than half of the allocated funds was exploited in 1982, and during the first nine months of this year--22 percent.

A department store has been under construction in this garrison since 1979, a food warehouse since 1980, and another warehouse since 1981, the service deadlines for all of which have long since run out. Work on the commercial projects has for all intents and purposes come to a temporary halt. In order to assure the military men and their families a constant supply of fruits and vegetables, it is essential that construction work be completed without delay on a refrigerated storehouse, two vegetable storage facilities and a fruit storehouse.

Deductions from the cost of housing construction toward the development of commercial-domestic enterprises on military bases are not made in full measure in all districts, nor in the fleets, nor in construction projects under central control. And, in fact, an urgent need is being felt on the bases for such enterprises. Military supply is forced to store potatoes, fruits and vegetables in accomodations not suitable for these purposes, which is causing considerable losses. In the Northern Fleet, and in the Transbaykal, Central Asian and Turkestan Military Districts, agricultural products which have been spoiled in this manner--had they been able to be saved--would have been sufficient to supply a large garrison for an entire year.

This particular state of affairs arose as the result of housing construction agencies in the above-named districts and fleets paying insufficient attention to projects intended for commercial-domestic applications, and also as the result of the lack of proper control and exacting requirements from the command structure with regard to the fulfilment of construction planning.

It would be well to remember that the CPSU Central Committee decree "On Measures to Ensure the Fulfilment of Plans for the Construction of Housing and Socio-Domestic Projects" particularly emphasized: that each instance in which deadlines are missed in the construction of civilian housing projects will be viewed as a serious breach of party and state discipline. As is apparent, it is no longer the case that everywhere and anywhere in the out-lying provinces is a long ways away: command structures, political organs, party and trade union organizations are approaching these issues from the lofty height of current party requirements.

Certainly, in accordance with instructions issued by the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, a complex program for the development of consumer goods production has begun, and a public service system designed to fully satisfy the needs of the Soviet people is underway. The task at hand calls for an unprecedented increase as well in the quality of commercial supply to, and the living conditions of military personnel, their families, the workers and servicepeople of the army and navy. And this cannot be managed without a modern, well-developed material-technical supply base.

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ARMED FORCES

KOMSOMOL COMMITTEE CRITICIZED FOR DISCOURAGING INITIATIVE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Major B. Khudoteplov of the Central Asian Military District: "There Was Much Ado..."]

[Text] In the summary evaluations, our battalion did not live up to the lofty expectations of its commitments in the competition. Among those who settled for disappointing results were no small number of Komsomol members. I put it to you directly: the Komsomol committee, which until recently was headed by Lt I. Zaytsev, provided no real combat assistance to the commander. It is by no means my intent to shift the responsibility for what happened entirely onto the Komsomol organization. But, its blundering and ineptitude in reaching for worthwhile objectives is, as they say, readily visible to the unaided eye.

Today, while going over the minutes of meetings which took place at the beginning of the school year, I did not get a sense of any apparent shortcomings in the slogans and promises. There were quite a lot of valuable initiatives and proposals set down on paper. One reluctantly wonders how greatly they may have helped in efforts to mobilize personnel for further improvements in combat proficiency, as well as the enhancement of discipline and lawful authority, if only they had received the support of the members of the Komsomol committee. Alas, this did not occur. One gets the impression that they are more moved by purely superficial concerns--those restricted to paper. I will offer an example.

At the beginning of the school year, Sr Lt V. Mamontov suggested instituting a competition among drivers for the best record in the use of technical equipment without serious breakdown. The proposal also stipulated that technical groups would function within the subunit. There was obvious merit in the initiative, and the commander approved it. Further word on the matter, however, was not forthcoming. Sr Lt Mamontov, deeply involved with his work with young people, absented himself from further public commitments. And what of the Komsomol committee? It "reacted" with strict formality: the information presented by the young officer was given consideration. Then it mildly rebuked him for neglect of duty, and left it at that. No change for the better was observed. A promising venture, speaking figuratively, had been nipped in the bud. This evolved into substantial losses. Suffice it to say that in the summary evaluations, many drivers displayed a rather low level of proficiency.

Of course, it is bad when someone heedlessly issues promises which, in fact, cannot be kept. It is even worse when the role of this kind of "promisor" is taken on by an activist, a member of the Komsomol committee--one who is expected to set the tone for competitions, to conduct himself above reproach. The moral costs of such behavior are obvious. This was exactly the case with Lt S. Shevchenko. During the course of the year, he often had occasion to appeal to his fellow servicemen from the rostrum to carry out their duties with a fiery resolve, while at the same time setting rather high goals for himself in his combat training. The value of his words, as events later showed, was far from great. In the summary evaluations, Lt Shevchenko produced rather modest results.

I wish to emphasize: there are many conscientious Komsomol members in our collective. Nonetheless, their contribution to the overall grade index would be more impressive, had the Komsomol committee, from the very first days of school year now ending, placed a tight lid on this sort of phrase-mongering, and not permitted the dichotomy between words and action.

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ARMED FORCES

BENEFITS FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS OUTLINED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 16 Oct 83 p 4

[Article on conversation of Colonel of Justice V. F. Vandyshev with "SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN'" correspondent V. Fedyayev: "Benefits for Families of Military Personnel"]

[Text] This is an interview at the request of readers. Letters are being received at the editorial office with a request to talk about benefits for family members of those who were killed in the Great Patriotic War in defense of the motherland.

Tell us about the domestic housing benefits for such families.

The families of military personnel who were killed in defending the USSR or while performing other duties of military service have a number of important benefits and advantages. They are provided for by the "Regulation on Benefits for Disabled Veterans of the Great Patriotic War and Families of Military Personnel Who Were Killed" approved by the USSR Council of Ministers resolution of 23 February 1981 and several other legislative acts.

In accordance with clause 20 of the bases for housing legislation in the USSR and the union republics and paragraph 15 of the stated regulation, families of soldiers who were killed needing improvement in housing conditions are provided living space immediately (both through the place of employment and the place of residence), including by virtue of living space transferred by ministries and departments to the charge of ispolkom's [soviet executive committee] of local Soviets of People's Deputies.

Living space, within the limits of current standards, being occupied by families receiving a pension for a military member who was killed is being paid for at a rate of 50 percent of the rental fee calculated according to rates established for workers and employees, and excess living space (up to 15 square meters) is at the single rate. Moreover, such families are given a discount at the rate of 50 percent off the established fee for the use of heating, water, gas and electricity.

The councils of ministers of union and autonomous republics, ministries and departments, and ispolkom's of local Soviets of People's Deputies are obliged to render all possible assistance in the construction of individual dwelling

houses for the families of military personnel who were killed. Local building materials for individual housing construction and major repair of houses are allotted to these families on a first order of priority. They are also provided fuel in this same manner.

The families of military personnel who were killed in defending the USSR cannot be evicted in a legal manner from the housing accommodations being occupied by them without the allocation of other living space.

How are pensions granted to family members of military personnel who were killed?

Disabled family members of killed and deceased Heroes of the Soviet Union and bearers of the Third Class Order of Glory are entitled to the establishment of personal pensions for them.

Irrespective of whether the parents were dependent upon the military member who was killed, since 1 May 1975 a pension for loss of the breadwinner has been granted to disabled parents whose children were killed at the front.

Pensions for loss of the military breadwinner are granted to disabled wives of military personnel who were killed at the front, irrespective of the time they reached old age or the onset of a disability as well as whether they were dependent upon the military member who was killed. For those among them who reside in a rural locality, a pension for the death of a military breadwinner is granted at the full rate and without the 15 percent reduction stipulated for pensioners who reside permanently in a rural locality and are associated with agriculture.

Social security organs grant pensions to family members of military personnel of the private's and sergeant's component who were killed, and military commissariats grant pensions to family members of officers, army and air force warrant officers, navy warrant officers and military personnel on extended service.

What are some more benefits established for the families of military personnel who reside in a rural locality?

It was established by the USSR "Agricultural Tax" Law and corresponding instructions of the USSR Ministry of Finance that the following benefits according to the agricultural tax are granted to the households of families of military personnel who were killed at the front during the Great Patriotic War:

--households with 1 disabled family member and having from 1 to 3 children up to the age of 16 are granted a discount from the tax total at the rate of 25 percent.

--households with 1 disabled family member and having more than 3 children up to the age of 16 are granted a discount from the tax total at the rate of 50 percent.

The benefit regarding the agricultural tax is granted to the household of the military member who was killed.

Persons receiving a pension for loss of a military breadwinner are released from paying income tax on income not exceeding 300 rubles per year. This benefit is not granted for wages from enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Men and women whose children were killed at the front are released from paying a tax for bachelors, single persons and USSR citizens with small families.

Who is included among the circle of persons having the right to benefits established for families of military personnel who were killed?

The enumerated benefits are granted (in the unit pertinent to them) to the families of military personnel; partisans; command and rank and file persons of USSR MVD and KGB organs; and soldiers and commanders of fighter battalions, platoons and detachments for defending the nation who were killed or died as a result of wounds, contusions or disabling injuries received while defending the USSR or while performing other duties of military service (official duties), as well as a result of disease connected with being at the front; to the families of persons who were killed in the Great Patriotic War from among personnel of self-defense groups of installation-oriented and emergency crews in local air defense; and to the families of workers in military hospitals and hospitals in the city of Leningrad (during the period of its defense) who were killed. The families of military personnel who were missing during the period of military operations are given the same status as families of those killed at the front.

The family members of military personnel, partisans and other stated categories of citizens who were killed (deceased) are recognized: dependents of personnel who were killed or missing to whom a pension is paid in connection with this; parents; a husband who has not remarried, irrespective of granting a pension; children not having their own family or although having one, but having become disabled prior to their attaining adulthood; and children, both parents of whom were killed or missing.

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GROUND FORCES

DUTIES, CHARACTER OF REGIMENTAL COMMANDER DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondent Col V. Nagornyy: "The Third Autumn"]

[Text] In the evening the long distance telephone on Lt Col Khevsurishvili's desk rang softly but it seemed, insistently. Lt Rafail Yusupov was at the other end of the wire. Hearing the voice, seemingly washed out by the distance, Vitaliy Nikolayevich thought that it was not that often that lieutenants troubled him, a regimental commander, on the telephone. After a perfunctory and indistinct "I wish you health!" Yusupov stated directly:

"Will you allow me to go to the settlement tomorrow?"

At first Khevsurishvili was perplexed. Why had the lieutenant made an unexpected request to him, the regimental commander, "over the head" of his immediate supervisor, Major Viktor Barank? But he listened to his subordinate and did not rebuff him. The conversation was short and Khevsurishvili made a mental note that this dialogue needed to be continued.

Dusk deepened beyond two picture windows covering his entire wall. Vitaliy Nikolayevich got up from his desk and impatiently paced his cozy office in thought.

Yusupov. The lieutenant colonel remembered perfectly their first meeting. Having arrived along with other military school graduates, the lieutenant differed from his contemporaries in some indefinable way. Of average height and robust looking, he burned with impatience to learn more quickly what place of service awaited him. And when, having already been ordered to be chief of a radar station, he was told about his distant "point," which was essentially located next to the border posts, he smiled almost defiantly: "I suppose that I was just lucky. In the sense of struggling with difficulties."

Yusupov's "point," where he had been many times, now was vivid to Vitaliy Nikolayevich's mind. The mobile home stuck up not far from the radar station and its sensitive antenna which reached up to the sky. By the way, it is not a home at all, but rather a hut; a simple structure of three compartments. One compartment is grandly named the stoke-hold, and the chief of the radar

station lives in another. His subordinates, who can be counted on one's fingers, occupy the other compartment.

In the winter, mounds of snow drift onto the equipment and the solitary hut, and then there are times when not even the powerful all-terrain vehicle delivering mail and fresh bread can get through for several days. At times wolves and even bears approach very close to the soldiers' quarters, and their fur stands up fiercely at the sight of the metallic antenna structure.

The settlement which Yusupov asked on the phone to visit had its huts scattered near the radar, although not in the immediate vicinity. And the solitary little village standing in the sparse growth of trees was not at all large: one could walk it from end to end while smoking a single cigarette. Why was Yusupov so attracted to it?

In the morning Khevsurishvili, still softly pacing his office, shared his concern with Major Matyukhin, chief of the regiment's political section.

"Understand, Aleksandr Mikhaylovich," he began, seemingly turning over yesterday's thoughts, "I keep thinking that there was something that Yusupov did not say. He apparently was afraid to speak candidly over the phone. Maybe we should go see him at the 'point' and look into it on the ground?"

Major Matyukhin, who knew Vitaliy Nikolayevich well from their service together, agreed that here was an unusual situation.

Khevsurishvili was the fourth regimental commander with whom he had worked as chief of the political section. Each of the predecessors of this energetic, even restive, lieutenant colonel had brought something of himself to the regimental leadership. One focused on technical training, another saw a well organized training process as the foundation for all successes, the third was remembered as a gifted organizer. Khevsurishvili, who never let any aspects of his many duties slip from his view, was noticeably distinguished by his bent for people.

Soon after he had taken over this radio-technical unit, people began to say that he remembered the names of every soldier in the unit, where he had been called up from, and what his inclinations were as a specialist. Of course this was an exaggeration. But no doubt many leaders would like for such rumors about themselves to circulate through their battalions. In any case, reality was completely plausible: Communist Khevsurishvili was involved in the lives of all his subordinates without exception, when his participation was required as the leader of a major military collective. Nor was Rafail Yusupov an exception.

The lieutenant met warily the officers who had unexpectedly arrived at his "point." But after Khevsurishvili was able to stir him up and draw him out, he began to talk with listless indifference, and the evening phone call ceased to be a riddle.

Months of truly difficult service in this "god-forsaken hole" had broken the lieutenant's will. And there were good reasons: cut off from the officer's

collective, endless concerns about the soldiers' lives, intense military duty. In addition, the company commander, sensing his letdown, rather than dealing with the young officer as he should have, just promised him such a "happy life" for many years to come. It was then that the lieutenant was drawn to the settlement, in order to "let off steam" and "cheer himself up."

To claim that the single talk that Lt Col Khevsurishvili and Major Matvukhin, chief of the political section, had with the lieutenant instantly and fundamentally "reforged" him would be untrue. In general it probably very rarely happens that a person whose conduct has already evidenced negative traits changes for the better as a result of the very first psychological impetus. The unit commander held several more talks with his subordinate--in his office and in unofficial, more relaxed surroundings--before Yusupov clearly understood the meaning and importance of his place in the regiment's military structure.

"Of course I also had to talk seriously with the company commander who had so unwisely intimidated Yusupov," Vitaliy Nikolayevich told me. "We also did a few additional things for the station team. We made the living quarters more habitable in winter and provided a television set. In short, to the best of our abilities we paid more attention to the personnel. Now Yusupov is already a senior lieutenant. He really was tempered in the course of struggling to overcome difficulties. I will say further that in time he will make an outstanding subunit commander."

I saw Khevsurishvili in his primary job--operational work. Somewhere the training target was slinking at maximally low altitude, and it was necessary to lead it over difficult terrain without any mistakes. It seemed to me than that here at the command post, equipped with the most modern gear, was concentrated all the regiment's combat readiness. The distant radars sent here the parameters of the air "enemy," and those who worked in the fortified command bunker tenaciously kept the enemy in their field of vision.

When the intensity subsided I desired to speak with Vitaliy Nikovayevich about the main thing with which the regiment lives each day--combat readiness and its sources. I had already sketched the topic of conversation in my mind. How is the struggle going toward increasing the number of higher category specialists? What are the "finer points" of disseminating experience? Where do commanders, political officers and engineer personnel apply their efforts toward improving the technical training of their subordinates? However, the conversation did not in any way focus on these prepared subjects. The lieutenant colonel was more and more sidetracked onto the subject of people. It became clear that in his work with them and concern about them the regimental commander also sees the basis of his multifaceted activities toward increasing combat readiness. His opinion on this matter is that during military work the frame of mind in which an individual fulfills his duties is extremely important. Therefore the situation must be such that he fully dedicates his knowledge, skills and will to his work. Of course this refers not to minute-by-minute moods, but to the more significant aspects of the moral factor.

In the regiment there is a "point" which is more difficult than that of Yusupov. The living conditions there are more difficult and the demands of military duty are more severe. Several years ago Sergey Lyutkov arrived there as a young lieutenant. He began to experience a rough spot in his marriage. Now a daughter is growing up in his young family. Team commander Lyutkov also grew into a captain. Not long ago Khevsurishvili and the chief of the political department studied the list of candidates for promotion. In his professional qualities Lyutkov did not stand out among the others. Like them he was an intelligent, knowledgeable officer. Nevertheless, Vitaliy Nikolayevich gave preference to him and decided to recommend him for assignment to the position with the accompanying promotion. The reason for this was the captain's daughter.

The fact is that there is no school at or near this "point." And time will hurry by unnoticed until it is time to send their daughter to first grade. And it seems that the regimental commander thought about this before the parents, having decided to transfer the officer to a well built, modern population center.

By the way, this was not the first incident of this type. Last year Khevsurishvili took the initiative to make three difficult moves of officers in order to transfer Captain Aleksey Vasilenko from his "point." His boy had become sick and required constant medical attention. Soon the switch took place and subunit commander Vasilenko began to come to work with a calm spirit, knowing that his son was now under constant attention of doctors.

But here is a seeming paradox. Khevsurishvili non-concurred in the promotion of another officer, and he did it so categorically that his superiors considered Vitaliy Nikolayevich's opinion to be almost capricious. The facts, however, were quite different.

Khevsurishvili had known this officer since the military academy, when Khevsurishvili had been two years ahead of him. They became acquainted out in the "field" of art, so to speak. Having the traits of an outstanding musician and singer, Vitaliy Nikolayevich was the leader of the academy art council. Amateur performances also brought him in contact with his future subordinate, who was also an excellent student. He joined the regiment from the academy with a "Red" diploma [i.e., honor roll]. At the time Khevsurishvili was truly happy; there was someone to command an excellent battalion in place of a departed officer. But time passed and the subunit, which had been excellent in the past, made no headway.

It did not take long to find the reason. The new battalion commander had not especially burdened himself with zeal in his work, but merely light-heartedly reaped the laurels of his predecessor. It got to the point that competition in the battalion began to fade and be covered with a touch of formalism. On one occasion Vitaliy Nikolayevich checked on the visual agitation in the Lenin Room and could not believe his eyes. During the midst of summer training it dealt with the tasks of winter period and called upon the troops to pass the norms for skiing. There is nowhere further to ski, so to speak.

A party meeting was held in the battalion at the recommendation of the regimental command and political officer. At the meeting Khevsurishvili spoke with heavy heart about the competitive positions lost by the battalion. And is it any wonder that later Vitaliy Nikolayevich stated categorically that the battalion commander had not yet matured to the point that he should take a higher position.

"He is a statesman," I heard in the regiment about Lt Col Khevsurishvili.

Perhaps they had in mind the instance mentioned which brought to light many aspects of Vitaliy Nikolayevich's party and military principles. Or perhaps they meant another activity of his, not directly related to his command of the regiment--his activity as deputy to the local soviet. It became no less indispensable and important in his work and concerns than fulfillment of his most primary military duties.

At the request of the workers, he found time to "fight" in the ispolkom for the contentious question of lengthening the bus route. On another occasion he spoke with concern at a session of the rayon soviet of the people's deputies about instances of lawbreaking in the city, and he proposed specific measures to establish law and order. He was present at one of the enterprises whose managers "could not find the hands" to lay 200 meters of pipe and thus protect the environment from industrial waste.

No, he does not make a distinction between his regimental command and his bustling cares as a deputy. Khevsurishvili hurries here and there with his characteristic thoroughness and efficiency.

He has commanded the unit for nearly three years. Last year it was designated "excellent" for the first time in many years. This autumn is his third in the position of regiment commander. It is very special in the opinion of Vitaliy Nikolayevich. On the eve of the training year now coming to an end, the regiment, which by the way is one of the oldest Red Banner regiments in the armed forces, became the initiator of socialist competition among the air defense radio-technical units. Many months ago he, so to speak, ended up on the right flank [a leader] in the battle for the highest indices in combat readiness. This high honor obliged him greatly.

The unit headquarters is situated in the military settlement in such a way that the front of the soldiers' barracks looks out on it. Very often people see how late the midnight oil burns in the two wide windows covering the entire office wall. What is the regimental commander doing? Is he reviewing military documents, deciding someone's complicated fate, or looking through his new mail received in his capacity as a deputy? This may be so. But the essence of the light in the night is probably broader and more significant: He is a statesman at the post entrusted to him.

9069
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GROUND FORCES

IMPORTANCE OF DRILL STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Lyul'kin, Red Banner Volga Military District:

[Text] Unfortunately one still finds instances of underestimation of the importance of drill instruction and smart appearance in servicemen. I would like the paper to discuss these issues more frequently." (From the statement of Lt Col Engr A. Meshkov at the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Readers Conference.)

Regimental inspection parade. I don't know how others feel, but for me it is always a memorable event. It is a sort of holiday. One glances over the parade field and feels pride in one's soul. The ranks exude strength and courage. And when the ceremonial march begins, how clearly and immediately the cohesion and drill training of the subunit are displayed!

For example, here comes the company commanded by Captain S. Korneyevets. The ranks are straight, the gait is firm, and the faces radiate confidence and high spirits. I look at the company in formation and it is like I am seeing it at its recent exercise, at the moment of attack. The company looked just as sharp then. One feels that the commander is firmly in command of the subunit and that each officer, sergeant and soldier knows his maneuver. It would not hurt to remember the old, but not out of date, saying: "Good in drill--strong in battle!" One feels similar thoughts when one of the best companies, commanded by Sr Lt N. Bolotov, and other subunits pass by.

But here is a different picture: broken ranks, sluggish gait, sloppy looking soldiers. Captain R. Akhmetayanov, the company commander, looked around and saw the situation and even lost the step. There was reason to be upset and embarrassed in front of the officers of the other subunits. Of course this company, to which we will return, to some extent spoiled the overall picture. But the goal was accomplished--the inspection parade carried out at the onset of the fall inspection roused people and forced each individual to look critically at how far he had come by the end of the year. Overall there was a general improvement, a strengthening of combat spirit, and a desire to worthily conclude the training year.

Drill and ceremonies is one of the main training subjects. Do we understand this truth well enough?

I once witnessed a conversation among young platoon commanders. It took place on the eve of field exercises for which the subunits had prepared intensely. One of the officers especially carefully checked the fit of his subordinates' clothing and personal equipment and the serviceability of their equipment.

He heard a rejoinder from one of his comrades: "You're wasting your effort. Sit your soldiers in the BMPs and forget about their equipment."

Perhaps I would not even recall this retort, if it were not for the fact that it reflects a rather widespread opinion among officers that in our "technical" age a smart military appearance is not so important.

I can foresee the question. What relationship is there, for example, between a serviceman's slipshod outward appearance or his inability to rapidly "sling arms" and his fulfilling an order in battle? But if one thinks about it there is a very direct link here. Regulatory requirements that servicemen be always neat, clean and in proper uniform stem most importantly from considerations of combat readiness. A clean or dirty undercollar is a question of a soldier's hygiene, health and well-being. Does this not affect his actions in battle? A smart appearance, well adjusted equipment, clothing in good repair, comfortable shoes--are these not indicators of readiness for battle and for enduring the burdens of life in the field? Confidence in handling one's weapon--will this not save valuable seconds on the battlefield?

Of course it shows, it has an effect and saves time. Drill training encompasses a number of just those questions mentioned above. It is most important precisely because it mobilized the servicemen, disciplines them, and instills skills necessary in battle.

I especially want to emphasize that the military formation also has a powerful emotional influence on people's minds and hearts. A feeling of pride in the combat banner of the military unit which is covered with glory, a feeling of involvement in the heroic traditions and togetherness with their military comrades, all this makes each person stronger individually and all stronger together.

Let us now return to the company commanded by Captain Akhmetzyanov. On the day after the inspection a regimental staff officer visited the subunit. This is what he saw. The company duty NCO announced a formation for an exercise. Most of the soldiers immediately hurried into ranks, but two lingered at their lockers. One, as if nothing at all had happened, continued to look at himself in the mirror in the personal service room. The formation awaited three late arrivals. When they finally appeared, confusion and regrouping began. Several minutes passed before finally the entire subunit was in formation.

It was a momentary hitch, seemingly trivial and maybe not worth a great deal of attention. But during the course of the day there would be a number of formations in the company, and owing to disorganization and the soldiers' lack of training in strictly observing the letter of the Drill Regulations, approximately the same picture was repeated. As a result there were many wasted minutes and interruptions in fulfilling the daily schedule. The most important effect is that people lose their enthusiasm and conditions are created for disciplinary violations. It is no accident that this company has the most soldiers detained by the patrol for uniform violations, failure to salute and smoking in unauthorized places. There have been instances when the company did not conduct the morning inspection or the evening walk, and when the unit duty officer relieved the company's daily duty detail due to its unpreparedness.

Of course, these shortcomings could have been exposed earlier. To be frank, we knew about them. But the inspection parade seemed to lay them bare and show that we could not accept them.

It is noteworthy that soon after the inspection the question of increasing the responsibility of officer-communists for the condition of drill training was discussed at a session of the regiment's party committee. Many things were discussed, including the reasons for shortcomings and poor drill training in some subunits. The main reason was the lack of personal example and insufficient demandingness of some officers. The party committee discussed the need to more often practice marching to songs throughout the city and to improve the equipping of personal service rooms so that soldiers can always put their clothing into good repair. In essence it was a discussion about strengthening drill and ceremonies education. Education, as is well known, is also an area of party work.

What reserve capabilities do we see for improving drill training? One is to ensure that all movement about the city is carried out in an organized manner, pursuant to the requirements of the Drill Regulations. Now it is a rather mixed picture. Some companies, say where the commander is more demanding and a first-sergeant is in place, march to the mess hall in strict formation. Others waddle in, as they say, without checking carefully to see that all are present, and without the required strictness towards those who are late for formation.

Improving the level of methodological knowledge in general and of drill training, especially of squad, platoon and company commanders, is a special concern. It must be recognized that not all officers can intelligently conduct lessons on drill training. Nevertheless, for some reason the opinion exists that training can be carried out on this subject without demonstration exercises and methodological training for instructors. We made it a rule to devote attention to the methodology of drill training at all meetings in the system of commander's training for sergeants, warrant officers and officers.

The influence of competition on improving drill training could also be more effective. Here is an example. The subunit commanded by Captain S. Korneyevets has recently begun to regularly conduct competition for the best

soldier at drill and ceremonies in the squad, platoon and company. In a short time this noticeably improved drill appearance. We decided to make mandatory regular competition for the best platoon, company and battalion in drill training. The execution of drill marching songs is envisioned by the rules of competition. Drill and ceremonies training indices are considered in tallying up the results of competition.

In conclusion I will give a real life example. A company is standing in ranks at the entrance to the barracks. Its commander is walking along the ranks and saying something. A minute goes by, another, twenty. Finally the command, "Dismissed!" is heard. I ask the officer what he was speaking about in front of the company. It turns out that the officer was dressing down several soldiers for violations which they committed during kitchen police duty. It was necessary to talk to them, but why in that situation and for so long?

Or here is another example. Due to the fault of one soldier, the platoon commander ordered the platoon to conduct drill training for an hour. "To keep others from violating military discipline," the officer explained his decisions. This makes drill not training, but punishment. This shows that the officer did not understand the reason for the expression: the formation is a sacred place. As the regulations emphasize: The formation is an established arrangement of military personnel, subunits and units for their joint actions on foot and in vehicles. We emphasize: for actions, not for lectures.

Everyone must understand this. The results of the training year are again convincing in this regard. Results in tactical and firing training and other disciplines are higher for the subordinates of captains A. Kushnerev and S. Korneyevets and senior lieutenants N. Bolotov. S. Sorokin. That is in those subunits where drill training is stronger.

9069
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GROUND FORCES

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SUCCESS OF FIELD EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Col I. Yershov, deputy chief of the Combat Training Department of the Southern Group of Forces: "Routes of Courage--on the Conducting of Field Exercises"]

[Text] When the sound of the last shots had died away and the dust raised by the combat vehicles had settled on the range, it became clear that officers and cadets in the tank training company commanded by Captain Yu. Prokopenko had successfully passed the test of military maturity. Only broken shells and bullet-riddled targets remained on the range following the conclusion of the comprehensive tactical exercise conducted at the end of the training year.

The tankmen's accurate firing was a sort of finale in the testing of the young specialists. Ahead of them lay a march of many kilometers, in the course of which the driver-mechanics would have to cross all sorts of obstacles and to perform in unexpected hypothetical situations, including one involving the repelling of "enemy" counterattacks. In short, conditions in the exercise approached actual combat to the maximum possible degree.

It can be stated with complete justification that one of the important elements in the success of Captain Prokopenko's subordinates is their good training for bearing the difficulties of life in the field. The complex situation which the cadets encountered in the comprehensive tactical exercise in the field was nothing new for them. And this resulted in great part from the effective utilization of field exercises.

The routes of these exercises ran through areas where Soviet fightingmen engaged in fierce battles during the Great Patriotic War to liberate Hungarian territory from the German fascist invaders. This gives the young soldiers a special feeling, makes them want to continue the traditions of the frontline fighters in a worthy manner. And Major O. Luk'yantsev and Captain I. Denisov, political workers, do the right thing: They always find time to acquaint the personnel with events which took place there during the Great Patriotic War. This unique bridge spanning history always "activates" and of course, helps, the young fightingmen to stoically withstand the difficulties of a field exercise.

In the last field exercise, for example, the fightingmen performed in a difficult tactical situation, day and night. They made long marches out of concentration areas, deployed in battle formation and crossed areas of various kinds of contamination and obstacles, and destroyed the "enemy" in hand-to-hand combat. They then had to repel counterattacks, perform field engineering in the defense area and take steps to protect themselves against weapons of mass destruction.

Captain A. Zinin, commander of the tank training battalion, had another, no less important task in the field exercise--to develop in his officers a unified approach to the methods for conducting tactical training exercises, to rapidly develop in the company and platoon commanders skills in training the fightingmen in difficult situations. All of this made it necessary for the battalion commander to perform a great deal of preliminary work to provide thorough support for the forthcoming field exercise, including the organization of socialist competition for each phase of the exercise.

Schedules for the performance of the training missions were compiled at battalion headquarters in advance; routes were marked out; the training materials and equipment base was prepared; and the procedure was defined for maintaining communication, for providing materiel and medical support and for organizing the traffic control service. Classes on instructional methods and demonstration classes conducted with the battalion officers and with the participation of the chiefs of unit branches of troops and services were highly beneficial.

In our opinion, the fact that the field exercise was conducted as a sort of closed circle is also deserving of attention. Each subunit went by turn through a linear group of prepared training areas: tactical training fields, a moving target gunnery range, a firing range, a tank training ground and others. This arrangement makes it possible to run through each training element thoroughly and gives the fightingmen the opportunity to experience maximum mental and physical strain.

In one phase of the exercise, for example, the platoon commanded by Senior Lieutenant V. Kolbin crossed burning areas and a water barrier; in another, it crossed a contaminated area; and in a third phase, it organized an ambush and performed reconnaissance. The fightingmen also had to engage in a hand-to-hand "battle." After that the platoon personnel performed a rapid march to attack the "enemy" from the rear. We need to add to this the fact that the fightingmen were simultaneously acquiring skills in the use of radar and chemical reconnaissance instruments and mine detectors, and in the use of a compass and maps to get their bearings in an area. In short, the field exercise was designed to make it possible to practice combat operations in great depth, to teach the battalion personnel how to perform continuously, smoothly and skilfully, both day and night, in a drastically changing tactical situation.

Naturally, the effectiveness of field exercises depends to a significant degree upon the commander's intolerance of simplifications and indulgences. The following is a good example of this. After completing the next stage of the exercise, the platoon commanded by Senior Lieutenant A. Bezhener' set up its position. The fightingmen had no strength left. The platoon commander therefore decided to post a

bivouac guard and limit the engineer preparation of the area to the laying out of trenches. Captain Prokopenko had to order the officer to complete the trenches and check the weapons and the night firing instruments.

The example set by Captain Zinin's men is further convincing proof of the fact that with the proper organization of field exercises lasting many days, the young soldiers receive good schooling for perfecting their tactical skills and strengthening their will. And in the final analysis, this will always affect the combat training results. Now, as we prepare for the new training year, we are summarizing experience in conducting the field exercises to bring their organization into even greater conformity with the principle: Learn that which is essential in warfare.

11499
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GROUND FORCES

TARGET PRACTICE IN WOODED AREAS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 83 (signed to press 23 Aug 83) p 14

[Article by Col R. Salikhov: "Firing in a Forest"]

[Text] As a rule a squad attacks in a forest either along the roads and clearings or on a given axis.

In organizing an attack in a forest the squad commander, in addition to the usual questions envisioned when preparing an attack under ordinary circumstances, informs his personnel of the azimuth of the attack, establishes the procedure for overcoming tree barriers and destroying enemy snipers firing from the trees.

Training troops to fire in a forest takes place at a specially equipped section of the troop firing range. Camouflaged stationary and pop-up targets are set up along forest roads (clearings), behind bushes and in trees. Upon arriving at the indicated training site, the squad commander orients his subordinates on the ground, reads them in to the tactical situation and begins the training exercise.

Because observation and sectors of fire in the forest are limited, and maneuver and movement in combat vehicles is difficult, the squad must conduct close combat and attack on foot. Under these conditions success depends on the ability of the troops to independently accomplish firing tasks and reliably and rapidly destroy the "enemy" by fire from small arms and grenade launchers. Therefore, first the sergeant explains and demonstrates techniques for firing on the march with the butt end of the rifle pressed to one's side. The personnel are trained (for 20-25 minutes) while both stationary and moving (targets number 1 and 2), and achieve the time norms for accomplishing the techniques.

The second training question (90 minutes), "Firing on Stationary and Pop-up Targets on the Ground and in Trees," is the most difficult. It has a number of methodological features by comparison with similar themes in firing training.

First the sergeant explains to the troops that one of the difficulties of firing in the forest is caused by the concealed deployment and movement of

targets during the battle, and their brief and sudden appearance. It should also be taken into account that the "enemy" will set up ambushes, both on the ground and in the trees. Consequently it is most important to observe constantly, detect targets in a timely fashion and destroy them immediately without awaiting orders to do so. Aimed fire from a short halt or from the march straight off the shoulder is conducted at distances greater than 150 meters. Directional fire is conducted at shorter distances. It is the task of each soldier, no matter what, to beat the "enemy" in opening fire and to conceal himself without fail behind a tree trunk.

Having shown the soldiers how to correctly occupy the terrain for firing and use natural cover and concealment, the squad commander pairs up the students, keeping intervals of up to 3 or 4 steps between them. He observes to see that the troops move rapidly from one tree to another, and that when the targets appear (numbers 3, 4 and 5) they take a stable firing position and immediately open fire. After a period of time the sergeant changes the pairs of students.

Why must the sergeant pair up the soldiers? The fact is that the limited visibility in the forest and the sudden appearance of targets frequently require use of rapid fire, primarily from close in, and most often at point-blank range and at the sound of the shots. As a rule it is conducted on the march in long volleys. Under these conditions mutual cover is very important. Therefore, the squad commander reminds his subordinates: If the first soldier in a pair detects and opens fire on the "enemy," the second acts as an observer and, covering his mate, is ready immediately to destroy new targets.

To teach firing at point-blank range and at the sound of the shots, four targets are set up behind bushes, representing running soldiers. Their firing is simulated through the use of amplifiers. On command and independently the troops determine the direction and location of the targets and practice firing on them with blanks.

Upon approaching "Lesnoye" village, the sergeant stops the squad and directs the attention of his subordinates to the following: Before leaving the grove for the open sector, it is necessary to conduct detailed reconnaissance. Once the "enemy" has been detected, destroy him with concentrated fire, and then dash quickly into the field and continue moving at double time.

With the appearance of area target No 6, the sergeant commands: "Squad, fire on the infantry; machine gunner fire on the recoilless rifle; sub-machine gunners Smirnov and Shvetsov, fire on the right corner of the target; three troops fire on the target; long volley--fire!" In this way the soldiers learn to distribute their fire to destroy an area target. After the pairs are changed (during repeated demonstrations) they practice independently accomplishing their firing tasks.

During the final part of the training (20 minutes) the troops accomplish an exercise which is usually developed at regiment headquarters. For example, target number one is a grenade launcher (distance 125 m) and number two

is an observer in a tree (distance 150 m). They appear 3 times for 10 seconds each, with intervals of 20 seconds. Target number two is raised 5-8 seconds after number one. Grading is as follows: Destroy the target on its first appearance--"excellent"; on its second appearance--"good"; on its third appearance--"satisfactory." Two soldiers fire simultaneously.

Actions of the students include the following: two submachine gunners, operating as a two-man patrol, move rapidly along the road. When the target appears, one of them, using tree trunks for protection, independently prepares to open fire and fires. The second acts as an observer and covers the first. When the second target appears he destroys it by fire while covering his comrade.

After the exercise is completed the sergeant sums up and evaluates the actions of each soldier.

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GROUND FORCES

NIGHT TARGET PRACTICE

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 8, Aug 83 (signed to press 21 Jul 83) pp 6-9

[Article by Col V. Potapov, deputy department chief, Main Combat Training Directorate: "Night Firing"]

[Text] In night battle, the soldier must operate in complete darkness as well as with prolonged or brief illumination of the terrain. Aiming, firing a shot, loading and unloading a weapon, loading the magazines (belts) and stowing them in the boxes, the elimination of possible delays in firing--the serviceman should accomplish all this automatically, by touch, spending as much time on each procedure as during daytime. Of course, skills in working with weapons by touch are acquired primarily on daytime lessons (blindfolded, in dark glasses) and their polishing takes place at night.

The training problems which are worked out on a night lesson are set forth in the accompanying note (see variant). The sequence in drills and the time allotted to them, commands employed, and standards are indicated there. Therefore, let us examine only some of the special features in the organization and conduct of a lesson under nighttime conditions.

First of all, a certain difficulty is caused by visual checking of the accomplishment of the procedures by the subordinates. If in daytime the squad leader easily sees all the actions of the trainees, immediately detects errors, and requires that they be corrected, at night the sergeant is deprived of such a capability. He must constantly have recourse to a flashlight. Dictated by experience, the overall methodological recommendation consists of the fact that the sergeant conducts the check of the trainees' actions in turn although he gives the command for the accomplishment of one or another procedure to all the soldiers, for example: "Squad, load belts (magazines). Time--40 seconds." Upon expiration of the time he commands "Stop" and checks the accomplishment of the standard, illuminating the magazine (belt) of each soldier by flashlight. If he notices shortcomings, the sergeant explains the consequences of such inattention in battle and continues the drill. The sergeant limits the time of the standard gradually: first, for example, he gives 40 seconds, then 35, and finally 30. By the way, when working out other standards it is recommended that precisely such a procedure be adhered to.

When it is light, it is not difficult for anyone to set the sight. But at night the soldier must do this by sound, from the clicks of the rear-sight slide,

course, it is best if the men are acquainted with this procedure during the day. Then, on night lessons the time is devoted completely to practical actions in the darkness. The sergeant orders the trainees to pull the back-sight slide of the automatic rifle (machine gun) as far back as possible. Then he gives a command, for example, "Sight 4." After a pause he turns on the lights and checks to see how the soldiers set the sight. The squad drills until all master the procedure.

Training at night has its special features. First the sergeant drills the soldiers with prolonged illumination of the targets. He reminds his subordinates that the best moment for the detection and destruction of targets is the start of their illumination. Observing the battlefield, the soldier raises his head slightly above the stock of the weapon (without aiming) and, detecting a target, he lowers his head, presses his cheek to the stock and without losing sight of the target, he locks it in the foresight protector, takes aim, and opens fire.

If equalizing the front sight in the sight notch (from too little foresight to too much foresight) does not have substantial significance during daytime, at night aiming should begin with too much foresight, subsequently equalizing it in the sight notch. This permits the soldier not to lose the front sight from the field of view.

After the explanation, the sergeant fastens an orthoscope (side eyepiece) to the weapon which is set up on an aiming rest and makes several aimings. The trainees observe the actions of the squad leader in turn through the sight and remember how a correctly taken full sight is seen against the background of an illuminated target. Then the soldiers themselves drill in the conduct of fire at targets set up at a distance of 100 meters, 200 meters, and more.

The squad leader accomplishes checking in the following manner. He gives the automatic rifle with the orthoscope (side eyepiece) installed and prepared for operation to a soldier and orders him to "fire" at an illuminated target several times, obtaining correct actions from the subordinate.

To complicate conditions, the squad leader changes the showing of the targets at different distances and employs different methods for illumination (search-light, headlight, lamp on a post, movement of the beam from one target to another, and so forth), gradually decreasing illumination time.

Instruction in firing at illuminated moving targets is accomplished in the same sequence as at moving targets during the daytime.

Naturally, it is much more difficult to learn to conduct fire with brief illumination of the terrain than with continuous illumination. Success comes in the case where the soldier ahead of time in the darkness assumes the position for firing, loads the weapon, and fires several accurate bursts from the sub-machine gun or machine gun during a short time interval (for example, while an illumination cartridge burns). In other words, it is rapid fire. The squad leader should also consider this special feature.

Firing at target silhouettes is even more difficult. The sight notch and the front sight are poorly seen against the background of a twilight sky, glow of a

fire, and with a moon. The range of effective fire under these conditions depends on the visibility of the silhouette and may reach 300 meters. Consequently, the sight should be set as follows: on the automatic rifle--constant (P), on the light machine gun--3, and on the sniper's rifle and Kalashnikov machine gun--4.

The squad leader explains and shows how a full sight, which is then matched with the center of the target, is taken against a light background close to the target at the level of its center. The release of the trigger from the sear notch is accomplished at the moment of matching the full sight with the aiming point (see figure).



Key:

1. Take full sight
2. Move full sight to target

Using an aiming rest and targets (2-3 at a range of 100 meters), the sergeant shows, and the trainees observe in turn in the side eyepiece (orthoscope) how aiming at a running figure should be accomplished. Here, he organizes the drill in such a way that the soldiers receive practice in the conduct of fire from different positions: prone with a rifle rest and offhand, kneeling, standing, and on the move. The sergeant checks the correctness of the position assumed and the loading of the weapon when illuminating the soldiers with a flashlight, and firing at the target--using sighting gear. Here, the special feature is that firing at the silhouette of a running figure is conducted with longer bursts than when firing at illuminated targets.

The last element of the training problem is firing at targets which give themselves away by the flashes of the shots. The sergeant directs the attention of his subordinates to the fact that it is expedient to aim at such targets (without the employment of special equipment) with open eyes. During aiming, the soldier gives the weapon a position so that the flashes of the shots are captured in the foresight protector; then, by a smooth movement of the weapon body he lifts the stock of the weapon until the matching of the backsight blade (or notch) of the sight for height and lateral direction with the center of the foresight protector--the flash should be visible as in an aperture. This method of aiming ensures giving the weapon the necessary direction to the target. The accuracy of firing is increased due to the increase in the length of the burst.

"APPROVED"
Commander of 1st Motorized Rifle Platoon, Lt. Kotov
(Month) 1983

Variant

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTE
for the conduct of a lesson with the automatic riflemen and machinegunners of the 1st Squad

Time: 50 minutes
Location: small-arms firing grounds.
Material support: prescribed weapon,
training cartridges--30 per trainee,
commander's case KYa-73, stopwatch.

Ord. No.	Training problems	Time	Sequence of instruction, commands, and standards
1	Assuming firing position and firing at illuminated targets	2105-2135	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assign the mission to the squad, issue 30 training cartridges to each trainee, check accomplishment of the standard "Loading belt (magazine) with 30 cartridges." Command "Squad, load belts (magazines)." Grades for automatic riflemen and gunners of light machineguns in accordance with the standard.2. Train in assumption of position and aiming at illuminated targets from in place using aiming rest. Check assumption of position and firing from in place at illuminated target: automatic riflemen and light-machinegunners--prone and kneeling (accomplishment of standard). Command "Prone (kneeling)--load." Grades in accordance with the standard. Prior to giving command, illuminate target for 20 seconds.
2	Drill in aiming at unilluminated targets	2135-2155	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teach aiming at silhouettes of targets against a background of poorly illuminated local objects. Fasten weapon on aiming rest, explain and show to each trainee the procedure for aiming at target silhouette. Deflect aiming and check the ability of each trainee to aim at target silhouette.

Instructional note (Continued)

Ord. No.	Training problems	Time	Sequence of instructions, commands, and standards
2. Train in aiming at a target which has given itself away by flashes. Explain and demonstrate methods of aiming at flashes of shots without using special equipment and with a self-luminous attachment. Check the ability of each trainee to aim at flashes of shots without self-luminous attachment, and then with attachment			

Leader of 1st Squad Sergeant Petukhov

The sergeant demonstrates the technique of aiming using a self-luminous attachment to the trainees in turn, placing the weapon on the aiming rest. After this the aiming of the weapon is deflected and the sergeant orders one of the soldiers to take a position at the rest. Detecting the flashes of shots, the soldier aims the weapon at the target and releases the trigger from the sear notch. To check the aiming, the sergeant usually lays behind the aiming rest of the trainee, orders illumination of the target, and determines the degree of matching of the full sight with the aiming point. At this time, the others drill independently.

Satisfied that the soldiers have mastered aiming the weapon at the target from the rest, the sergeant moves on to instruction in the procedures for firing off-hand. Using an orthoscope, he himself checks the correctness of the "capture" of the shot flashes in the center of the self-luminous half-ring or the matching of the self-luminous "figure of eight" with the flash of a shot.

Experience shows that the effectiveness of the lessons increases significantly if the sergeant organizes socialist competition in the squad in a well thought out manner. He reminds the subordinates of the content of the forthcoming training problems, tasks, and standards and helps each one to determine individual obligations. In the exercise, the sergeant sums up the results after each procedure and standard which has been accomplished and he names those who have distinguished themselves.

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GROUND FORCES

NIGHTTIME TANK TRAINING

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 8, Aug 83 (signed to press 21 Jul 83) p 6

[Article by Guards Warrant Officer Ya. Korol', senior company technician, Baltic Military District: "Under Cover of Darkness"]

[Text] Night is properly considered the ally of the paratroopers. Therefore, we devote great attention to working out training missions during darkness. Our driver-mechanics acquire the necessary skills in driving airborne combat vehicles (BMD) and consolidate them on the tank driving grounds in the course of night lessons.

Experience accumulated in the subunit shows that young soldiers often commit the very same mistakes. Here are most typical ones. Coming to the company, Guards Private G. Yeremeyev drove the vehicle rather confidently during the day but at night, on a route of the tank driving grounds, he moved in low gear in crossing obstacles. As a result, the mean speed of movement proved to be low.

Guards Private N. Il'ichev demonstrated poor technique in crossing obstacles. He engaged low gear even before approaching the treadway lane in a minefield or an antitank ditch and did not sense the moment that the combat vehicle had passed the limit of the obstacle. He lost time because of this.

Such blunders were also inherent in other young specialists who did not always conform to the established standards in the classes, and their unskillful actions led to overloading of the engines and to increased wear of the BMD running gear.

Just what hampered these and other soldiers in operating confidently after sunset? The conclusion suggests itself: insufficient practice in night driving and an insufficient state of training in working with night vision instruments. We considered this in training the men.

Several training sites have been organized at the tank driving grounds on night lessons. On one of them the driver-mechanics of the company drive the vehicles, on the second they observe the terrain and individual objects using the night vision instrument (TVN), and on the third they review the rules for crossing obstacles.

I enter the results of the lessons in a workbook. Let us say, last time Guards Private First Class Yu. Korotkov was let down in judging by eye on the sector of obstacles and restricted passages. Today I remind him of this. Working at the training site where the TVN instrument is located, Korotkov set it up and adjusted it correctly. Now the paratrooper drills in determining the range to individual objects. So that he can compare them at different distances markers are set out every 10 meters to the depth of the instrument's operation in the sector of observation and hedgehogs, posts, stumps, and so forth are also installed. Then the other driver-mechanics take their place at the TVN instrument and also accomplish the exercises without any simplifications.

I devote the greatest attention to the training site where practical training takes place. It is precisely here that the men's professional skill is molded and polished in full measure.

As is known, darkness conceals the nature of the terrain. Using the night vision instrument, from the BMD driving compartment the paratrooper observes only several dozen meters ahead along the road. Here, the sector of observation is narrow for the driver-mechanic in comparison with daytime instruments.

I take my place in the vehicle together with Private V. Mikolauskas: he at the control levers, I in the commander's seat. I give him the opportunity to adjust the image of the TVN instrument. I know from experience that some soldiers prefer the general background darker, and others--lighter. On my command, the soldier moves the vehicle out. During movement I teach him to orient himself under road conditions from the traces of the tracks of BMD's which passed through earlier.

...Ahead is an antitank ditch with a passage which is marked with clearance posts. I remind Mikolauskas that it is necessary to steer the vehicle at their axis line strictly along the center and perpendicular. And the rule for crossing is simple--both clearance posts should disappear from the field of view simultaneously as the obstacle is approached. After this, shifting to a lower gear the selected direction should be maintained.

The ditch has been crossed, and there is already a new obstacle on the route. This time it is a natural one--a pit. Many driver-mechanics are afraid of pits at first and, therefore, reduce speed. First, it is difficult to determine the depth of such an obstacle with the TVN instrument and, this means, also the method for crossing it. Second, the instrument conceals distance. If the posts or stakes which have been placed in front of regular obstacles help the specialist to determine the remaining section of the path comparatively precisely, pits do not have such reference points. It is necessary to use local objects which differ in both dimensions and shape: hummocks, bushes, rocks, and so forth.

"Orient on the lone bush to the left," I prompt the soldier. "As it is hidden from the field of view, shift to a lower gear,"

Here the nose of the combat vehicle dipped downward; this means that it rolled across the edge of the pit.

"Increase fuel feed!" I remind the paratrooper.

The engine roared--and the obstacle is behind us....

It is important to drive the vehicle over the entire route in a technically competent manner. After all, exercises at the tank training grounds should develop in the driver-mechanics automatism in actions when crossing obstacles. Therefore, I go over the route many times with each man.

Many beginning driver-mechanics become excessively worried at night on the sector of obstacles and limited passages and they commit errors. One of those which is widespread: they begin the turn from the first passage late and are unable to place the vehicle perpendicular to the second. How can this error be corrected more rapidly?

We proceeded as follows with Guards Private G. Yeremeyev. He memorized the order in which the obstacles are arranged on the sector as well as the distances between them. Being in the vehicle and knowing its speed, he now could mentally imagine his position on the ground. For example, I taught him to cross the passages between the stumps and craters as one complex obstacle. Bypassing the stumps, it is important to be able to approach the craters correctly. My instruction helped the soldier to bring the BMD in time and precisely to the axis lines of the next passages.

We are constantly improving the training procedure in the subunit. In particular, we began to devote more attention to the driver-mechanics who need additional drills.

Until recently, in working out problems in firing training at night the main load lay on the commander of the BMD and the gunner-operator. Now, after the accomplishment of the fire mission, when returning to the start line the driver-mechanic should cross one of the obstacles: a treadway lane in a minefield, a treadway bridge, or an element of an obstacle section. This innovation was proposed by officer N. Pytkov, and it is providing good results.

The combination of an individual approach with additional drills helped the driver-mechanics of the subunit to improve their skill in driving the BMD's and increase the average driving speed, and this means raising the combat readiness of the subunit as a whole. "In the future, too, we will do everything necessary to ensure the security of our country," stressed Comrade Yu. V. Andropov at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. For us, these words serve as a precise reference point in improving combat and political training.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

FLIGHT ON LONG-RANGE MISSILE-CARRIER DESCRIBED

Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Oct 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Vasily Yemel'yanenko, Hero of the Soviet Union and author: "Behind the Sun"]

1.

[Text] I am in the quarters of a military post. It is after midnight. I cannot sleep. Not all the missile-carriers which had left for a long flight over the ocean have returned to their base. I am standing by the open window and remembering...

November 1942. We are flying behind the front line, and our target will come up soon. My wingman, Shamshurin, is on my right. The side of his ground attack aircraft bears the large letters [krupno vyvedeno]: "We will avenge Mos'panov!" The antiaircraft fire hits. I see that fire flashed under the fuselage and extended toward the tail rapidly. "You're burning!" I transmitted, but the airplane just rocked its wings in reply. The "Il-2," loaded with bombs, went out ahead and made a run below with its burning tail. Tracers were stretched out from it--the pilot is firing cannon and machineguns. The attack aircraft was already at the ground, and a fireball rolled over the enemy column. "Attack! Attack!" I am shouting with a voice that is not my own, and the squadron swoops down in a sharp dive where the flames and black smoke are billowing up.

10 Guards Jr Lt Vasiliy Shamshurin took vengeance on the enemies for the death of our squadron commander, Hero of the Soviet Union Il'ya Mos'panov. Shamshurin himself became a hero. Posthumously.

And here it is 40 years later and I again find myself in these places. I met the pilots who have come in to take our place as frontline soldiers. I saw the aircraft of today--fast, high-altitude, all-weather missile-carriers. They frequently leave here for flights of many hours over the waters of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, over the ice of the Arctic. The sky is demanding there now...

They fly for a long period of time. And I have been with them on a flight. And then I truly became aware of the force of our combat aircraft and the high training of their crews. I returned from the flight convinced that if it is necessary, a retaliatory strike will be irresistible.

Our long-range aircraft are mighty, vigilant air sentinels of the Motherland.

...soon it will be daybreak. The poplars are not stirring. I hear a rumble in the distance: the crews are returning from a difficult flight. The tired pilots, navigators, flight engineers and aerial gunners quietly enter their quarters so as not to disturb the sleep of the women and children.

2.

I am in a guards air bombardment regiment, the adopted brother of our guard regiment. In the attack on Sevastopol' in late May 1944, the paths of the bombers and ground-attack aircraft of the two regiments crossed in the Sevastopol' sky over Sapun-Gora and Mekeniya. The banner of our guards regiment is now preserved for eternity in the Armed Forces Museum in Moscow.

And here in the unit's headquarters, sentries stand by the colors. Next to them is the red pennant of the USSR Minister of Defense, with the inscription "For courage and military valor displayed in carrying out missions"....

The fighting past and present are side by side.

Major Viktor Sergeyevich Demidenko, the regiment's deputy commander for political affairs, invites me to the parade ground.

In the center is a pedestal. On top of it an "Il-4" bomber, which I know from the war, appears to soar. "Hello, old fellow," I want to say, as to a comrade-in-arms. I know that in these aircraft, on the nights of 7 and 8 August 1941, pilots made the first raid on fascist Berlin.

The routes of the guards regiment during the war are on a concrete tablet. The names of eight Heroes of the Soviet Union--the beloved sons of the regiment--have been carved here.

The relics of the unit's first commander, Col Aleksandr Yakovlevich Vavilov, the bearer of many decorations and a participant in the raids on Berlin, are preserved in a room of battle glory. His combat tunic, holster, map-case and wristwatch in a darkened case are in a glass showcase. Here there is a photograph: Vavilov in a flight suit, unshaven, with hollow cheeks. Once he was shot down at night, left the burning airplane by parachute, and landed in the enemy rear area. For 26 days and nights he wandered through the forests, searching for partisans. After 2 months they brought him out of the Bryansk forests to the Big Land [Bol'shaya zemlya], and he once again assumed command of his regiment.

"How is he?" I asked Demidenko.

"He is alive... He visits us from Gorkiy. Recently on our 30th regiment's anniversary, and presented the challenge prize to the best regiment. But this regiment is commanded by his son, Guards Maj Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Vavilov..."

It is not easy to become accustomed to the operational life of such a unit. They fly day and night. Hours and minutes have been tightly compressed. I do not manage to meet Major Vavilov; he is in the air, making night--and stratospheric--operational.

Regiment Commander Vladimir Aleksandrovich Sazik V--a brown--yellow, energetic, determined soldier appears at headquarters: training classes, the engine, flights--his time is counted in minutes. He is highly skilled: a "pilot--sharpshooter." This level must be constantly maintained, and he must fly more often.

He was born in victorious 1945. He came to aviation from a pilot. He completed the Air Forces Academy imeni Gagarin. He has been commanding this regiment for 3 years.

"How many times have commanders been replaced here?" I ask him.

"I am the 10th," Sazikov replied. "All the previous ones were disabled..."

Looking at Sazikov, I thought: and he too, apparently, will soon become disabled, and perhaps in time Vavilov's son will lead this regiment.

I met Vavilov's navigator, Vyacheslav Abramenko, who comes from the Donets. His father was an artilleryman. He was a disabled veteran of the Great Patriotic War, gravely wounded in the battles at Shyauliyay. Abramenko is secretary of the squadron's party organization. He says of his commander:

"He respects flights strictly. He has his own approach to the commander. I have had occasion to hear him say more than once about his training: 'This you can perceive through Vavilov's hands--he is strong!'"

"When you fly to the north," Abramenko says, "you chance all the usual atmospheric hazards..."

Abramenko might see only the changing seasons, but one can be deceived, also, something else. American "F-4J's" are flying about there. The carriers of the U.S. Navy--the "Midway," "Forrestal," "Kitty Hawk," "Intrepid" and "Enterprise," accompanied by escort ships, put out far from their own shores to intrude into foreign waters... In addition, the plane loads of nuclear submarine perpetually surface and vanish in the ocean. American "TF-104's," "Orioles" and "A-4C's" reconnaissance aircraft, filled to overflowing with electronics, also are encountered; they brazenly fly around in medium altitude, trying to decipher the system of radiotechnical means for intercepting and neutralizing.

"Seldom do our long-range missile-carriers conduct a flight," continued Captain Abramenko, "without being closely accompanied over neutral waters by American "F-4" and "F-16" fighters. The pilots sitting in them under transparent canopies appear to be sniffing about our aircraft from all sides, they click their camera shutters for hours, and then they bank their aircraft on its wing and show its belly bristling with missiles..."

It is tense where Abramenko and his comrades are flying. And he believes justifiably that such uninvited "contacts" may some day turn into unwarranted trouble, too...

3.

From a distance the white missile-carrier looks graceful: the wings are tapered back slightly, the fuselage is elongated, and the tail is elevated. It seems that it itself is asking for flight... Only close up do you realize its truly vast size: its tanks hold almost two railway tank cars of fuel. But if it is necessary, it can be refueled in flight by an air tanker, of course.

The cabin hatch is open, and a metal ladder is set against it--it's a little high! We climb up with Major Demidenko and Lt Col Vladimir Aleksandrovich Zakharov, the unit's chief of staff. Both are pilots first class.

The nose section contains electronics, optics, and many instruments.

The aircraft's equipment is capable of finding and distinguishing targets, performing fire control, carrying out dead reckoning, responding to observation stations, and much else.

You won't hear any conversations about the flights from the pilots--they talk more about matters on the ground. Well, Zakharov winked slyly at Demidenko and told me a little about their ordinary life:

"On the 16th of January this year, Demidenko and I went over the ocean in a pair of aircraft. And who would have thought that we once also worked together very much 'in synchrony' on the ground as well!.. On another day, the 17th, we are sitting down at home and the children squeeze our hands:

"Well, hurry up, men, to the maternity hospital--your wives each have given birth to a daughter on the same night.'

"Now we each have two children, but I have programmed one more pilot, and I'll put an end to it there, very likely."

Simple, earthly conversations. But now they were joined by the fighters which took off from the American carrier and how they attempted to follow them off their course--I found out about this later.

Sasha's father was a pilot, but Demchenko came from a different family. The hard postwar years live in his memory. His city was destroyed. His wife died in a demolition house. A soldier's bed of bent wood, a table of half-finished boards from penises, three nails on the wall instead of plates--that was all the furniture of the mine's chief mechanician. A watery soup with the flavoring of a nettle and a ration of bread. They opened a school in a barracks. Demchenko held out through secondary school. At the military commissariat station they asked the tall fellow:

"What branch would you like to serve in?"

"In aviation, as a pilot!"

He finished higher school, became commander of an aircraft, and later, of a detachment. He was the squadron campolit (deputy commander for political affairs), and was elected secretary of the unit's party committee. This year there were three events for Major Demchenko: an addition to his family, continuation in the post of regimental deputy commander for political affairs, and successful completion of an institute's history faculty by correspondence.

"How do you have time everywhere?" I ask him.

"I have to hurry! I'm already 35... This year I want to give a report by correspondence to the Military Political Academy. I have to catch up to Zaytsev--he's already an 'academician,'" smiles the campolit.

They look at their watches. The campolit must get to a party meeting on time, and the chief of staff must get to the KP [command post] to have time to brief him of a mine-hauler. It has been in the air for over 14 hours already. The aircraft is commanded by Maj Gen Avn Vladiislav Alekseyevich Tsygankov, and his navigator is Lt Col Vsevolod Pavlovich Pomyatkin.

...Demchenko acquainted me with Zaytsev Konstantinovich Tsygankov, a veteran of the regiment. Friends call him ZKT for short. He left the middle-thirties not long ago, so that everything is French in his mind. Tsygankov has a reputation in the regiment as an in-flight refueling expert--that most complex element of a flight. ZKT flew over the Arctic and over the oceans, and no unconverted American aircraft in the air were faster...He was taking part in a record flight which lasted for many hours.

"I am approaching my airfield, but there is still fuel left, and I am the ground: 'Will you authorize flight for another single of marsh?' In the plane? Almost! Everyone is already at the table, and the pork and borscht are already well prepared! Well, I went down to the park. At first I didn't feel the tension. I took off a shirt with an appetizer on the ground--it had no effect. Later on I slept through exactly 7 days. I rub my eyes and say to myself: 'Is it morning or evening?' I taste the stewed fruit, and look again at road traffic in the village."

"But haven't you been inclined to sleep on a flight?" I ask Tigeyev.

"Up above the work is demanding, and one is not sleepy there. The 'emotions' are such that they can create a spark..."

Tigeyev was sitting with me in my room. We talked for a long time, and openly, as it is called. Yes, his head has become white, but his gaze is that of an eagle.

"It is not necessary to put us to the test. They have tried already! This has been done! And repeatedly! It is well known now everything about."

He spoke--and lapsed into silence, absorbed in his thoughts.

4.

Today is a flying day. Colonel Sadikov is wearing a light flight suit. I sat down with him in the "uazik" [vehicle manufactured by the UAZ--Ul'yanovsk Motor Vehicle Plant] and went for the preflight.

The crews of several aircraft were assembled in the training class. In accordance with the flight planning table, Sadikov will take off first.

The sky was overcast that day. The weather was getting worse. The weather service chief pinned a chart depicting weather systems to the board and reports. A strong cold front is approaching from the north. The cloud cover is multi-layered with zones of intense thunderstorm activity. The height of the cumulus clouds is up to 11,000 meters. Icing is possible.

"What does weather reconnaissance report?" asks the commander.

"It confirms the forecast."

"Any questions?"

Everything is clear to the crews. They are waiting for the commander's decision. At that moment, I am sorry to say, I thought that the flights might be changed because of such weather, and then my wish to take a flight would not be realized. Prior to this the careful Major Krushinskiy of the medical service "probed" me for a long time.

"You write in your story that you were shot down four times on the front. Were there any wounds or bruises?"

"I had no after-effects, and I don't count myself among the disabled!"

While Vadim Leonidovich fastened the sleeve of the well-known instrument with a rubber bulb to my arm, I said that my pressure would be 130 over 70. I was in error by several units at the upper limit, and that, apparently, resolved everything.

The commander had already told the crews his decision:

"Takeoff order as before! Avoid the cumulonimbus clouds! I will specify the altitude for in-flight refueling."

...The airfield. Sadikov examined my attire intently--jeans and a light jacket over a shirt. He said nothing. They brought an interphone headset with an oxygen mask, and I try it on at the time.

We climb into the airplane. The crew quickly took up their positions. The hydraulic system came into action, and the entry hatch slammed shut with a bang. Quiet. The frequent clicks of switches are heard. A signal panel lit up with multicolored lights. I hear rapid, concise speech in the headset. Information is flowing to the aircraft commander in a strict sequence.

"Firing system [ognevaya ustanovka] ready for flight, parachute attached, oxygen valve open!"

"Roger!" Sadikov ends each report. Not a single superfluous word.

The missile-carrier must take off punctually--on the minute--and at the designated time, "strike" a distant target, and then refuel in flight.

A place was found for me near the narrow passageway to the cockpit. The main parachute is on the floor--I settle in. The aircraft commander and his assistant are sitting up high, under the transparent canopy. Next to me in front of his "iconostasis" is Vitaliy Kazadayev, the veteran flight engineer, and at the other side, the regiment's navigator, Lt Col Nikolay Mikhaylovich Klyuzhev. I hear the familiar voice of Operations Officer Zakharov:

"Twenty-two: start up, pressure 743."

"Aircraft on the apron, control surfaces unlocked. Senior flight engineer, start the engines." Sadikov says.

A slight shudder passes through the aircraft. Soon it slowly moved from the position and began taxiing.

"Twenty-two, take off!"

A gathering roar penetrated the airtight hatch. The multi-ton aircraft sped down the concrete runway. The strip is rushing past faster and faster. The end of it already is visible. Sadikov pulls in the control wheel slightly--a smooth and heavy takeoff.

"Gear up! Flaps up!"

A gigantic force pulls the huge aircraft upward. The wings open up one layer of clouds after another.

A solid mass of clouds floats beneath the aircraft. It looks to me like a hilly steppe of snowdrifts. Here and there mountains protrude into the blue, and over them a hazy shroud, through which the yellowing sun, dipping toward the west, shows through anxiously.

All the crewmembers are wearing oxygen masks. Each one is engaged in his work. Kazadayev attached a corrugated hose to my mask. He shouted in my ear:

"Breathe oxygen and look over here!" He tapped his nail on a piece of glass on the instrument, where a valve appears and disappears with the breathing rhythm.

...We have been flying for several hours already. The aircraft is above the clouds on autopilot. The horned control wheels are swinging gently, and the needles on the navigation instruments appear to be clinging to points on a scale. The pilots are looking ahead intently.

The navigator has a great deal of work. The ground is obscured by clouds, but he is guiding the all-weather aircraft accurately along the route and within the time limits.

Kazadayev reports to the commander on the amount of fuel and oxygen remaining.

"Roger," Sadikov replies, adding: "Pass the mug!"

The flight engineer promptly took the cap off a large thermos, poured into a mug, and passed it to the commander. The latter took several swallows, wetting his oxygen-dried throat. I also drank the warm unsweetened tea with a mildly acid taste.

"Commander, discharges [razryady] on the left," reports the senior aerial gunner.

"I see..."

The side window is being lit up at times by the blue aurora borealis, and the black cumulonimbus swirls threateningly at the side. A correction has been made in the course. And again in several minutes:

"Commander, on the right, below 1,000, an aircraft crossing our course."

"Roger. Keep an eye on it." This was directed at those aerial gunners situated far from us in the tail section.

Vavilev's aircraft is flying somewhere behind us. One of its crewmembers is 20-year-old gunner-radioman Igor' Zikeyev, from Kursk. This year his term of service ends. Not long ago his son was born. Zikeyev is returning home in the fall, and will once again stand at a lathe in his home association "Kursk-stroydetal"--by this time his turn will be coming for an apartment and he will have more space to live in. He was dreaming about this not long before the takeoff, but now he is on the lookout. He has seen foreign aircraft more than once up close, "alive."

first time was even interesting, then I was on my guard [uznki derzhati parikomj," Igor' told me. "They stick to us like leeches, and don't leave. I see--he is taking photographs. I also took my camera in both hands--like Ankiny did with a machine gun in the film 'Chapayev.' One dashed aside, then came in, and shook his finger. I also waved: turn back, I say, or you won't get home, your fuel will be gone. I have met this pilot more than once; he flies in an 'F-4' with three sixes on the side."

Zikeyev has seen American aircraft with the wing markings of various NATO countries. He has seen them and remembered them for a long time.

5.

The pilots went to manual control. A slow descent. The aircraft plunged into the "soup," quivering at times. The outlines of the coasts familiar from schooldays appear on the radar screen. We are descending lower and lower. Broken clouds with openings are around us, and suddenly--it is black below us. The whitecaps of large swells are discernible from low altitude.

Here, under the cloud cover, it is dark. The navigator checks the course--a smooth turn up to the "target." Swift flight straight ahead. The floating ice gleams below.

The second navigator bent over his instruments. Waiting. And the command--"Launch!"

I mentally visualize how the hatch doors opened, the heavy missile broke away and settled for an instant below the aircraft. But here it slipped out from under the belly, bounced ahead, and with a trail of smoke rushed toward the designated point.

A turn. In a while the ice floes were left behind.

...On the horizon to the left, the peaks of craggy mountains are outlined. And once again a long flight over water. A remarkable flight behind the sun. It was suspended low over the apparent edges of the sea and should have been just about hidden, but the missile-carrier swiftly shifted from one time zone to another. This "pursuit" lasted for a long time, and finally, the tired sun touched the cloudy horizon as a reddened disc, flattened out and disappeared.

It quickly became dark.... The instruments began to phosphoresce more brightly. Everyone turned on individual panel lights on flexible bases. The pilot's glance at their charts occasionally. They are on the alert.

In front of the navigator on the radar screen, a beam of yellow light swings like a pendulum, lighting up with each swing the distant shoreline and concentrated bright blips. Those are ships: there is most contrast in the center. Soon after it began rippling on the screen, and the bands and zigzags began to run; the interference must be tuned out...

We take up a course for the refueling area. The aircraft increases altitude. It is dark. The clouds are like puff-pastry. Rapid conversations are under way in communications with an unseen air tanker. It is somewhere in a holding area. "How will we get close to it, how will we spot it in this cloudy sky?" I wondered, standing behind the pilots.

There from the side a reddish light is running obliquely. It is getting closer and closer. It stopped in front. They turned on a floodlight, and the bright beam pierced the haze and lit up from below the huge aircraft suspended motionless above us.

A hatch under the tanker's tail opens wide, and a long hose winds out of it. It sags under the weight of the docking cone attached to the end. Around its rim yellow lights shine faintly, and it slowly approaches the aircraft's nose.

The pilots attended to the control wheels. Their hands, feet, and even shoulders were in constant motion. I recall Sadikov's words:

"During the time you are flying with a hose in contact you become wet--wringing wet..."

The pilots' gaze is fixed on the floating target ahead. They aim at the small funnel-shaped opening with the arm extending above the cabin, and they seize the necessary opportunity. The utmost tensions: the 200-kilogram cone may hit the pressurized cabin--then there is trouble. And finally, the shot of a compressed air cannon; it pushed out the extension arm, and the aircraft shuddered. There is coupling! The fuel has begun! But the tension does not diminish--now they must keep track of slack in the hose, or else a break--another predicament...

Somewhere behind us in the clouds is Major Vavilov's aircraft. He is waiting for his turn to refuel. Snap! -- the mast poured over with a cloud of atomized fuel, and our missile-carrier banks away from the tanker and takes up a course for the distant base.

Sadikov came below and squatted next to me, wiping his brow with a handkerchief. He drinks the tea remaining in the mug. He gazed at me:

"Would you like to try it, Comrade Colonel?" he points to the cabin.

Of course! I sat in the left seat, touched the "breathing" ["dyshashchiye"] pedals with my soles, and gently seized the control wheel. I sense as the broad-shouldered right-seat pilot, Lt Col Boris Grigor'yevich Mel'nikov, pulled back the wheel, then released it.

Control is light, without any efforts. In the war, it was difficult to "be the boss" of a ground attack aircraft. I look at our "eternal" navigation instruments: vertical speed indicator, gyrohorizon, airspeed indicator, compass... I don't need the rest of them. I fly the aircraft without excessive roll, and it flies responsively on the assigned course. I have not had 20 years of flying work for nothing.

With each minute of flight, the places which have remained in my memory all my life come nearer and nearer. Sadikov touched me on the shoulder. It was as if I had regained consciousness: I hadn't noticed that 25 minutes had gone by. The commander invites me to come below for a snack. Near Kazadayev lies a parachute bag with food. He is in charge of it. He pulled out a chicken leg for me.

"Excuse me, I forgot the salt."

...The aircraft is in the parking area. Quiet. The hatch door hung down. I descended to the ground. I smell the odor of green grass. A streak of dawn is shining in the east.

Sadikov hands me a cellophane package.

"This is the regular flight ration as a souvenir for you: you earned it today."

(6)

Morning. The sun is already up. The military post has come to life. Girls in white aprons are gathering at the entrances, and boys with knapsacks on their shoulders are pacing with an air of importance.

Aleksandr Vavilov, with all his decorations and medals, takes his grandson ceremoniously to his first class. They have asked the grandfather to conduct a lesson in courage at the school.

...Colonel Sadikov slammed the doors of the automobile, saying to the soldier at the wheel:

"Let's go to the dzot [log emplacement]!"

A muddy river. A 45 cannon [pushka-sorokopyatka], dear to our soldiers' memory, stood on a pedestal on the shore. At the side of the road was an old dzot, with its plaster falling off and overgrown with an old wormwood on top.

Yes, this is the same one, memorable and dear forever. More than once I flew in here with my third squadron when the fascist tanks put the pressure on. However, how everything around has changed! I glance at the distant hills showing through the lilac haze and I do not recognize those places...

Guards Colonel Sadikov stands silently on the side, nervously chewing a blade of wormwood: he does not interrupt my thinking, my recollection.

After all, he will tell me that last night in the bar had a spy aircraft
which had illegally intruded into our airspace had been shot down.

Well, I think... Well, our sky is demanding. This is our sky!

And we must fly, defend the sun!

- 1 -

Date: 10/1/05

NAVAL FORCES

COMMANDER'S ATTENTION BEGETS SUCCESS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Captain 3rd Rank B. Beloyartsev]

[Text] At the end of the training year the crew of the small anti-submarine boat commanded by Captain 3rd Rank Ye. Travnikov passed the acknowledged leader of the competition, MPK [small sub-chaser] "Komsomolets Bashkirin," which for a time had been and, it seems, was still firmly entrenched in first place. For many this outcome to the socialist competition was unexpected.

The specialists of our staff, having inspected both ships, came to one conclusion: the success of officer Travnikov's crew was natural. He had prepared every aspect and had carefully organized socialist competition on the ship. The "Komsomolets Bashkirin" lost to a worthy opponent.

First of all, Captain 3rd Rank Travnikov was to achieve friendly competition among the officers. With this object he developed a system of analysis which was the basis of a special table hung in the wardroom. With this table one could easily determine when one of the other subunit commanders intended to reach just which indices and how things were up to the moment. Control was accomplished by using many parameters which reflected all aspects of service activity.

What this does is clearly visible in the example of competition rivals Senior Lieutenants P. Vanyashin and O. Demin. Both are educated specialists, and demanding and skillful instructors. The former had until recently commanded the best section on the ship. Experienced sailors were selected there. Demin's subordinates had a more difficult situation. Specialists often moved, going to other ships, and novices filled their military positions. There was an objective reason for this. Earlier, however, during final scoring this was not considered and superiority was "reserved" for Lieutenant Vanyashin's element. Consequently the young officers lost interest in the rivalry and as an end result they lost interest in the competition results.

The special analysis developed by Captain 3rd Rank Travnikov eliminated this imperfection in evaluating officer activity. In particular, it became clearly evident that, being behind his rival, Demin studied his specialty more thoroughly, completed his watch duties more confidently and carefully

and worked with subordinates more. It became clear just what Senior Lieutenant Travnikov should pay attention to in the future. This woke up the young officers' nearly extinguished interest in socialist competition. The professional skills of both officers increased significantly in the sharp rivalry. A few days ago both were promoted.

The skillful organization of officer socialist competition on a ship is not only a reliable way to increase their activity, knowledge and skills. It is also a school which teaches how to skillfully organize friendly competition among subordinates. On the MPK which Captain 3rd Rank Travnikov commands everyone struggles to attain the highest results in training and service. The smallest deficiency becomes especially noticeable and intolerable under such conditions. The creative approach to analyzing specific achievements in individual sailors, sections and the crew as a whole helps display them in time.

Here is a typical occurrence. After the cruise in which the personnel of the electromechanics division had a heavy load, the ship stayed in mooring a long time. Shortly after, Captain 3rd Rank Travnikov noticed that the recently energetic and active specialists in BCh-5 [electrical and engineering division] had slackened off and become passive. This showed itself while it was still hardly noticeable, but the ship's commander considered the dangerous symptom important. It showed up in the analysis table of officer activity. The service activity indicators for BCh-5 commander Senior Lieutenant-Engineer N. Mednikov fell sharply.

It was ascertained that at first the section commander himself and, later, the subordinates, who caught his mood, also decided that the most difficult times were past, so they lowered their own exacting standards. The decisive intervention by Captain 3rd Rank Travnikov and Party and komsomol organizations helped the section correct its error.

Because of my type of duty I often come in contact with organizations of socialist competition on various ships. And each time I am convinced of the truism stating that when commanders become deeply involved in all details, constantly ponder over intensifying competition and look for hidden reserves, achievements are really appreciable and more possibilities for reaching new heights in military training are revealed. The success of Captain 3rd Rank Travnikov's crew of the small anti-submarine boat is primarily explained by this.

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NAVAL FORCES

EDITORIAL ON NAVIGATION SAFETY

Moscow/PASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Cruise Reliability"]

[Text] The long cruise is over and the ship returns to home port. By tradition the commander is the first one ashore and reports to the senior officer-in-charge meeting the ship. If the cruise was successful, the officer without fail stresses in this report, "there was no incidents or breakage." And then as a corollary, "The ship is ready to carry out new missions."

Freedom from accidents or, as they say in the navy, cruise reliability, is inseparably linked with combat readiness. Our ships make long cruises in various parts of the world's oceans and in all types of weather. They have to sail in storms and in fog, in open seas and in narrows and in complicated weather conditions. While carrying out training missions at sea, they often meet NATO navy vessels and this demands increased vigilance from military sailors.

Splendid, reliable ships armed with first-class weapons and equipment and having outstanding operational characteristics give Soviet sailors the ability to confidently sail in any conditions. But now, in the age of reactors, automatic position tracking devices and radar, a ship's cruise reliability is guaranteed primarily by the training and vigilance of the crew, and especially of the commander.

In the majority of ships much attention is paid to the problems of guaranteeing accident-free, safe cruises. For example, this is the case on the submarine commanded by Captain 3rd Rank Babayan. On each cruise his crew persistently strive for the vigilant performance of cruise watch and for accurate duty organization. They pay great attention to raising the personnel's cruise efficiency and work to prevent possible carelessness.

Unfortunately such an approach to providing cruise reliability is not universal. For example there was inadequate special training on the mine-sweeper "Nastoychivyy" [Persistent] and the irresponsibility of Senior Lieutenant A. Galkin's subordinates resulted in one of the instruments becoming non-operational. The result was a poor quality combat training exercise for the crew.

The crew does not pardon negligence and laxity and severely punishes those who go out on a cruise half-trained and not oriented as one must be in tense military work that demands total efficiency from each and every one. The fundamentals of accident-free equipment and cruise reliability must be instilled in training while still in port. Each sea cruise must be preceded by carefully reviewing those navigational situations which may arise during the cruise, persistently studying and training in training rooms and simulator complexes, studying the experiences in training and educating sailors that have been amassed on other ship cruises and painstakingly inspecting all on-board equipment to verify its operability.

Cruise reliability to a decisive degree depends on the ship captain's professional training. As he is in essence the senior navigator, he must personally determine the ship's location systematically, keep total control over the navigation division's work and totally know and observe international collision warning rules for ships at sea. To guarantee a safe cruise a captain really needs outstanding knowledge of subordinates and the ability, relying on the Party organization, to unite them into a monolithic collective and direct them to unremitting vigilance.

The activity of staff officers and flagship specialists have special significance. They must not only correct whatever deficiencies they find on the ship. They must also deeply analyze the reasons, actively spread the latest experience of the best navigators and specialists who service their own areas without accident and breakage and who extend equipment-usage time between repairs. The struggle for cruise reliability and freedom from accidents is inseparable from the struggle for increased discipline and efficient organization of the daily inspection and jack overs of ship systems and machinery.

An important way to increase vigilance and sailor responsibility is by purposefully and skillfully adjusting political educational work. On a cruise it is extremely necessary to do this specifically, effectively, vividly and, mainly, directly during combat shifts and at combat stations. The political, party and komsomol organizations must have heavy input in this matter. Personal examples of communist and komsomol members rigorously fulfilling the requirements for instructions and directions is important everywhere.

With the goal of increasing cruise reliability, the commander, staffs and political, party and komsomol organizations should more fully use the possibilities of competition and should increase its specificity and effectiveness. The saying, "had no accidents or breakage" adds little to duty. It is still necessary to really mobilize people in the daily struggle for completing and increasing the quality of servicing weapons and equipment.

Cruise reliability... Deep meaning is instilled in this very term. The ship's crew must be able to qualitatively resolve missions given them in the most complex navigational and weather conditions.

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NAVAL PIECES

HELICOPTERS USED IN SUBMARINE SEARCHES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Lt Col M. Trubnikov: "Helicopters Over the Sea"]

[Text] Personnel on the ASW cruiser had foreseen all the difficulties of the forthcoming night search for an "enemy" submarine," and the ship's commander had therefore made arrangements in advance for the possible use of helicopters. He was troubled by only one thing: Would weather conditions permit the helicopters to fly? The wind was picking up, and the sea was becoming perceptibly more turbulent.

Here in the Mediterranean Sea the helicopter pilots had been flying out to search over a highly turbulent sea, finding the "enemy" submarine with certainty and maintaining contact with it until the attack had been completed. Major Yu. Gurlev's crew had repeatedly demonstrated especially good skill. "It may be necessary to send him out first," the cruiser commander decided.

In the weather conditions which had developed it took the sonarmen on the ship a long time to establish contact with the submarine. It was then that the commander made the final decision to send up the helicopters. The aviation specialists led by Captain of Technical Service E. Trifonov readied the combat machine considerably ahead of the standard time, and Major Gurlev's crew was soon in the prescribed area.

There are many indices by which the training of deck-based helicopter flyers are evaluated, but the main one is their ability to find submarines in any kind of weather, any kind of sea conditions, to interact closely with the shipboard specialists and when necessary, to daringly attack an "enemy" in the depths themselves.

The competition among the crews in the training year just ended focused on the achievement of this good end result. The competition heated up especially during and at the end of the long cruise. Even with high ratings for all the other indices, that crew would be declared to be the best, which had the greatest number of submarine detections and the longest period of contact, and the helicopter flyers knew this very well. This is the main criterion. It is impossible to meet the criterion if one does not possess excellent piloting techniques, initiative and resourcefulness in searching for the "enemy" submarine, if there is a lack of precise interaction between the commander and the navigator, if one is not capable of taking from the equipment everything which it is capable of

ability. All of the training elements were therefore persistently practiced, and there was a spirit of rivalry, truly militant, during each flight. It was the aim to fly records.

Even before beginning the long cruise, the airmen had performed a test flight on a submarine which, "flights" on a trainer had also helped them to polish their skills. Dozens of times they had practiced procedures for the search for a contact, the location of a contact. The airmen had listened to the sounds of submarines, located in various areas of the sea, with the time of year and water conditions indicated. At the suggestion of Major N. Shiyan, military navigator-sniper, a special button was installed in the trainer. By pressing it the operator could register even the weakest noises and learn to interpret them. The helicopter crewmen gained a great deal from classes conducted at a tactical table by Captain officer Yu. Oskokov, military navigator-sniper. At this table all of the commanders of the fighting machine crews developed their search skills, checked the effectiveness of tracking techniques which they already knew and tried new ones.

Equipped with this knowledge and experience, Major Gurlev and Captain Boyko now felt confident in the air. After checking out one area, they headed for another. They sought the submarine not gropingly or by guess-work, but in a smooth and logical sequence, taking the evasive tactics practiced by submarines into account.

At the designated spot the crew set up a barrier of sonar buoys. On board the helicopter they now listened carefully to see which of them would be activated first.

"This buoy I has been activated," Boyko happily reported. "The noises are those of a submarine. The coordinates: latitude... longitude...."

The report went from the air to the cruiser "Leningrad" that contact had been made. The ship set out on a course toward the area indicated by the helicopter crewmen.

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SPECIAL TOPIC

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MAKARSEV ON RAILROAD TROOPS

Moscow BELOVAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Oct 83 p 2

(Article by Lieutenant General of Technical Troops M. Makarsey, chief of railroad troops: "Troops of the Steel Mainlines")

[Text] A little more than a year remains until through rail traffic begins along the entire length of the Baikal-Amur Mainline. Work on this construction project, the scale of which finds no precedent in the history of world railroad construction, is nearing completion. Let us recall that the BAM is almost 3000 kilometers of track, 9 mountain tunnels, 126 major bridges across rivers and streams, 300 main-line structures and 700 stations and sidings.

Almost the entire line runs through territory posing difficult problems from the point of view of topography and engineering geology. Steep slopes, landslides, slides, avalanches, ice encrustation and bogs are all rampant here. Over half of this area falls within the permafrost region. The climate is extremely continental with severe winters with little snow. Temperatures occasionally drop to 80-90 degrees below zero.

But a railroad is nevertheless being built under these extraordinarily difficult conditions which requires up to rigorous standards and regulations governing construction. It is provided with automatic block signalling, the latest system of traffic control signalling, centralized electrical switching and signal control devices and reliable communications. In a word, you don't have to be a railroad expert to be able to appreciate the dimensions of this project, a project unique in its fruition by the will of the party and people.

The railroad troops consider their participation in the construction of the BAM one of the greatest honor as well as an important patriotic duty. They take pride in the trust placed in them by the party and government, responding to this with their selfless labors, efforts and dedication in the construction of the most successful accomplishment of this most important national construction task. Many soldiers, NCO's, warrant officers and officers of the railroad troops have been awarded the "For Construction of the Baikal-Amur Mainline" medal as well as other medals and orders, while Lieutenant Colonels S. P. Tolokonnikov, Makarsey may have had the high title "Hero of Socialist Labor" conferred upon them.

Participation in the construction of the BAM is without doubt a valuable test for the railroad troops and a unique conditioning experience for all personnel. The

enormous amount of work to be done and the limited amount of time available to do it in have required construction on a high technical level, the introduction of advanced solutions and engineering processes as well as the use of new materials and structural designs. Thanks to the initiative and creativity shown by those directly responsible for organizing and accomplishing the work on the spot, our railroad troops have been able within only a short period of time to master the efficient railroad-building methods and procedures being employed here in these adverse natural climatic and geological conditions. This is making it possible not only to do what has to be done on the BAM smoothly, but occasionally to get it done ahead of time to boot. Suffice it to point to the 303-kilometer stretch from Urgal to Postyshevo, which was permanently opened to traffic at the end of last year ahead of schedule. Some 90 per cent of the total length of the main track of the eastern leg of the mainline has now been laid.

Troops are now working along virtually the entire length of the eastern section of the BAM. Inspired by decisions of the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, they have undertaken new obligations and organized socialist competition with the objective of completing the laying of the main track ahead of schedule. It must be declared frankly that this is a challenging and critically important task. From each individual participating in the work on the project it is requiring enormous physical effort, moral stamina, initiative, resourcefulness, organization, discipline, a creative approach to his work and labor to the point of selflessness.

Having been thoroughly tempered under these severe conditions, most of the troops working on the BAM are overcoming the difficulties involved with confidence. Now leading in competition are subunits under the command of Lieutenant Colonels L. Pisotskiy and V. Kurkin. Efficiently organized work procedures, expertly organized socialist competition, efficient use of equipment, continuous concern for the needs and requests of personnel and effective political indoctrination are making it possible for them to insure smooth progress toward accomplishment of scheduled tasks and to achieve high technical-economic performance figures. Inspired by a profound sense of personal responsibility, our troops are turning in shock work-style performances on the BAM. They are now striving for early, before November 7, fulfillment of annual production plans and accomplishment of assigned tasks.

There is no doubt that the BAM occupies a special place in the life and work of the railroad troops. This does not mean, however, that they are engaged in construction work alone. As is not to be found in any other profession, the railroad troops combine in themselves the skills of two specialties: they are at once regular soldiers and transport construction workers. They build and at the same time prepare to defend what they have built; for them, just as for all other Soviet soldiers, the army way of life includes exercises on the firing range, the sports grounds, the classrooms and the training grounds. They, too, have exercises referred to as special-tactical exercises. The principle governing the training we put our railroad troops through is the very same as that upon which the training given all our Armed Forces is based: learn what you'll need in war and what is necessary to strengthen the country's defense capability.

The successes the railroad troops have achieved both in the training exercises and in the work they are doing on various construction projects have all been made possible by the fact that the party and people have provided them with first-rate

equipment. The power supply per producing unit for the railroad troops has increased many-fold over the course of the postwar years. They now dispose of powerful earth-moving equipment and machines and modern trucks, cranes and bulldozers. Their subunits are equipped with systems of both road- and track-based machinery, for a variety of purposes and distinguished by high capacity and productivity, versatility, reliability, maneuverability and simplicity of handling. Some of this machinery has been designed so as to be able to function in both semiautomatic and automatic modes and is equipped with hydraulic drive and remote control. The use of modern equipment and associated hydraulic and electrical devices has made it possible to fully mechanize the processes involved in restoring, improving and building railroads. Operations involved in building the earthen roadbed, assembling the track skeleton and then laying and ballasting the track have now been 99 per cent mechanized.

Taking account of the experience of the last war and now the even greater lessons made upon the armed defenders of our motherland today, the railroad troops are consistently improving the quality of their combat and political training and working to increase their mastery of the equipment and quick, efficient methods employed to build and restore railroads and increase the throughput of our steel mainlines.

It would not be true, however, to claim that the railroad troops have no unresolved problems to contend with. The military council, commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations are now engaged in a consistent effort to do away resolutely with existing deficiencies in the training and indoctrination of their personnel, to insure complete and unqualified compliance with party requirements, that we do everything possible to tighten military and work discipline and to improve our style and methods of leadership.

Now 65 years old, the railroad troops draw from a rich arsenal of both fighting and working traditions. These include deep devotion to the Communist Party and Soviet Government, love for the fatherland, readiness to execute any orders from superior authorities, high competitive spirit, drive and persistence in mastering weapons, equipment and military skills and a highly developed spirit of military comradeship and mutual assistance. Today's generation of railroad troops remains true to this legacy and, prepared to continue striving to prove themselves worthy in discharging their duty to the motherland, they are by their own deeds picking up the glorious torch passed to them from preceding generations.

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SPECIAL TROOPS

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MAKARTSEV DISCUSSES ROLE OF RAILROAD TROOPS

Moscow GUDOK in Russian 5 Oct 83 p 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General of Technical Troops M. K. Makartsev, commander of railroad troops, on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the organization of the Soviet railroad troops on 5 October by A. Filimonov; date and place not specified: "At War and on the Job"]

[text] [Question] Mikhail Konstantinovich, when I was visiting a subunit of the railroad troops, I was shown an issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA which carried the following letter. "At the beginning of this past summer my oldest son returned home from the army," writes A. Murashko, a heroine mother and milker on Sverdlovka in Minsk Oblast. "Vladimir served with the railroad troops. He didn't have any skills at all before he entered the service. But now? Without even taking time to rest up from his trip he decided to replace some electric wiring. I was a little apprehensive: 'Be careful, son, electricity....' But he replied calmly: 'Don't worry, Mom, I'm an electrician now.' Then a few days later I saw my Vladiya on a tractor. 'Good heavens!' I say to myself. 'He's going to fall off there and hurt himself.' I ran over to him, but he just smiled again: 'What's the matter, Mom? I can operate a bulldozer now, too.' Then, to put me at ease, he told me he had also worked as a crane operator, a fitter, a driver and a mechanic. What kind of organization is this that teaches people all these good things?"

[Answer] I read that letter. I admit it moved and delighted me, the mother of this soldier had good things to say about what our commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations are doing.

Our troops are special troops. We were organized back in 1918 by direct order of V. I. Lenin for the purpose of supporting the combat operations of the Red Army. The troops then were charged with the missions of repairing and maintaining the railroads and then of building obstacles when infantry units withdrew. They were also given the task of building new rail lines. Then in the postwar period the construction of major transport facilities became an essential component of the combat and specialized training given our troops.

[Question] Why, if you can put it this way, do the railroad troops train their people in these peacetime skills?

[Answer] These skills are quite simply indispensable if we're going to be able to restore, repair and build railroads quickly. The railroad trooper is first and foremost, however, an armed defender of the motherland. So in addition to the political instruction he gets and the special skills he learns, he has to master his basic military skills to perfection as well: he has to be able to perform expertly in combat, negotiate contaminated terrain, conduct technical reconnaissance and acquire the skills of an expert marksman. By building real installations using modern equipment, structures and materials, our troops are able to practice doing what they would have to do to repair railroads at a battle front.

[Question] We know that at the fronts during the past war our railroad troops had in fact more than once to lay down their spike drivers and pick up their rifles.

[Answer] That's right, our troops had to worry about more than simply repairing lines of communication. They absorbed the early blows of the Hitlerites. Together along with units of the Soviet Army and by building a strong system of obstacles on the railroads helped our forces reorganize and blocked the enemy advance. For valor in action, steadfastness and courage, one of our railroad brigades received the honorary "Guards" designation.

[Question] So the mission of the railroad troops has remained essentially unchanged over the 65 years of their existence?

[Answer] Generally speaking, that's correct. We've seen some radical changes from the qualitative point of view, however. Here are a few figures. During the Civil War, the troops repaired some 25,000 kilometers of railroad. The Great Patriotic War saw this figure rise to something like 120,000. This called for enormous efforts on the part of many people and a lot of equipment. But then the appearance of the nuclear missile immeasurably increased the possibility of disruptions of communications both in the vicinity of the front and in the interior of the country. So our units and subunits have to be equipped and trained so officers and specialists so as to be able to repair disabled transportation facilities in the shortest periods of time possible.

The railroad troops now dispose of all these things in full measure. Our units have been provided with special-purpose equipment at a level made possible by the latest advances in science and technology. This inventory includes high-capacity road- and rail-based machinery, heavy-duty trucks, mobile electric power stations, entire lines capable of operating in either semiautomatic or automatic mode, remotely controlled systems and effective means clearing mines, building obstacles and conducting technical reconnaissance of the railroads. Our subunits are supplied with equipment like this to the extent that one out of every three drivers and NCOs is operating some kind of machine or piece of equipment. But every unit of the railroad troops has to have a knowledge of electrical engineering, mechanics, hydraulic systems and automatic and remotely controlled equipment. So it comes as no surprise to us that Vladimir Murashko, a railroad trooper discharged into the reserves, the one his mother wrote a letter about to the newspaper, is a real jack-of-all-trades. Soldiers, NCOs and officers like this comprise the absolute majority of our people. The transport construction projects in the severe conditions of Siberia and the Far East are testing their strength of will, their competence and their readiness to surmount any difficulties.

[Question] Comrade lieutenant general, GUDOK has run frequent accounts of the successes the railroad troops are chalking up in their work on the BAM. How are things going out there now?

[Answer] I recently travelled almost the entire length of the eastern leg with Major General A. F. Stolyarov, a member of the military council and head of the railroad troops' political directorate. And when I say almost the entire length of the thing, I mean just that. True, we travelled part of the way by car, but for the most part by train. The thing is, though, until recently you had to have a helicopter to get around out there.

Take look at the map. The troops are running the steel track from Tynda on east. They've already taken it past Dipkun, through the middle of Zeya and now rapidly toward Fevral'sk. Then more of our rail layers are advancing toward them in the opposite direction from Fevral'sk. Behind them stretch the hundreds of kilometers of track they've already laid. Long stretches of the railroad, the Komsomol'sk—Postyshevsk—Postyshevsk—Urgal sections, for example, have already been turned over for permanent operation. These two stretches of track are soon going to be joined together. It is taking the form of a siding bearing the name of a valiant railroad troop, Viktor Miroshnichenko, Hero of the Soviet Union. This is going to take place ahead of schedule, in 1984. The BAM troops have undertaken this as an obligation.

A spirit of great political and labor enthusiasm prevails these days in our sub-units on the BAM, a spirit generated by the decisions of the November (1982) and June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenums and the speeches delivered on these occasions by Comrade Yu. V. Andropov. Our troops are filled with resolve to make their own contribution to the development of our transportation system and to be worthy representatives of our Armed Forces on the labor front as well. Among the leaders in our socialist competition are the subunits commanded by officers L. Pisetskiy, V. Kurkin, Yu. Popov, P. Barashin and V. Lagushkin. The successes our leading organizations are achieving have been made possible in large part by the consistent, purposeful party political efforts of our commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations, which mobilize our personnel for fulfillment of the obligations they have undertaken.

The motherland places a high value on the self-sacrificing labors of her railroad troops. Many of them have been awarded orders and medals, some have become Lenin Komsomol prize winners, while officers S. Pal'chuk and V. Kupriyanov have had bestowed upon them the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

[Question] Mikhail Konstantinovich, our television recently showed our minister of railroads, N. S. Konarev, meeting with a group of our young railroad builders. They spoke of the need to improve the functioning of our transportation system and to train and then assign more young personnel within the industry. Tell us how many of your troops go on to positions in transportation after completing their military service and whether or not it's that a young person have already worked on the railroad prior to his call-up for army duty.

[Answer] The railroad troops and transportation.... Is it really necessary to elaborate on the natural relationship between the two?

[Question] Back during the war people used to say that "the railroad is the [Soviet] Army's brother."

[Answer] Well, you could still say that today. For the fact is, after all, that the railroads have been given the primary role in supporting major combat operations: they are always ready to undertake large-scale transport operations and can function around the clock regardless of the weather conditions. And, naturally, we are always glad to have new people coming into the railroad troops to serve with us. As a rule, these are well-disciplined young people with good backgrounds of specialized training. They aren't going to seek any less perfect of training.

I don't think the civilian sector railroad people are too put up with us; the troops who have put in their army service with us and then gone on to work in the transportation industry are for the most part some of the best people they have. Each year sees hundreds of Komsomol troops leave us for the transportation industry and the country's major construction projects. "Thank you for developing these true Soviet patriots, young people of integrity and industry," Soviet patriots wrote in a letter to the commander of one of our railroad battalions. "Your heroic troops Nikolay Burykin, Grigoriy Komayev, Anatoliy Kiselev, Sergey Pashchenko and Vyacheslav Karasev are now communist labor shock workers for us, our most courageous people, the ones who show the most initiative. If only we had more like them!"

With the international situation as difficult as it is, with American nuclear missiles being deployed right at our doorstep, with imperialism engaged in intensive preparations for a new war, every one of our country's fighting men should be fully discharged into the reserves only to the extent that that's what their needs are; they must in fact be continuously prepared to stand in defense of the motherland and strengthen her economic and defensive position through conscientious labor.

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

PLATOON OFFENSIVE, DEFENSIVE ACTIONS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 8, Aug 83 (signed to press 21 Jul 83) pp 26-27

[Article by Col Z. Moseyev: "The Platoon in the Offense and Defense"; from materials in the foreign press]

[Text] In the overall system of the Pentagon's military preparations, an important place is allotted to the improvement of the organizational structure, armaments, and tactics of motorized infantry and infantry small subunits. It is stressed in the American regulations that the motorized infantry (infantry) platoon is the smallest tactical subunit. Striving to standardize the combat employment of small subunits (for example, for the suppression of popular disturbances, dispersal of demonstrations in their own country, the struggle against partisans on the enemy's territory, the conduct of sabotage operations, and so forth) the U.S. Army command is arming these subunits with lighter but more effective weapons. Thus, it was decided to replace the M1911A 11.4-mm pistol (Colt) with the lighter XM9 9-mm pistol with a magazine having a capacity of 12-14 rounds. New antitank grenade launchers also entered the platoon inventory.

In the course of the war in Vietnam the 66-mm four-barrel M202A1 grenade launcher, the composition of whose grenades includes a self-igniting phosphorous mixture which sprays on detonation, was tested and has now entered the inventory.

Small U.S. Army subunits also received other innovations in the inventory. Thus, for example, the XM54 incendiary mine has gone into use; its propelling charge lifts it to a height of three meters and scatters fragments and the phosphorous mixture within a radius of up to 25 meters. The riflemen are armed with the M34 rifle incendiary grenades which are fired to a distance of up to 120 meters and, exploding there, spray a burning mixture within a radius of 25-30 meters, igniting grass, forests, brush, structures covered with straw, and other objects.

The /offense/, it is noted in American regulations, is considered to be the main type of combat operations. Under these conditions, as a rule the platoon operates as part of a company. Under some circumstances, for example, when fighting in a populated place, in a forest (jungles), in mountains, in the defense of a water obstacle, and in the antilanding defense the platoon may also operate independently. Depending on the situation in the area of combat operations, the attack may be prepared ahead of time or conducted from the march.

Preparations ahead of time are conducted under conditions where the enemy forestalled in the deployment of forces and prepared his subunits for the defense. The platoon goes over to an attack from the march when the enemy is forced to execute a hasty withdrawal and is inferior in personnel strength. However, in both cases the attack is made up of stages: closing with the enemy, the breakthrough of his defense, exploitation, and pursuit.

The platoon can attack in the company's first or second echelon and on the primary or secondary direction. The attack frontage for a platoon is usually designated up to 400 meters, and for a squad--100-200 meters, with the mission to capture the objective at a depth of 1-1.5 kilometers. The assault position is designated as close as possible to the enemy, within limits of 100-150 meters from his FEBA [forward edge of the battle area] with a dismounted attack and, with the availability of armored personnel carriers [APC]--at a distance of 200-400 meters. When organizing the attack, great attention is devoted to questions of organizing cooperation and coordination of the actions of squads and organizational and attached weapons by lines, directions, and time. Special stress is placed on the combination of fire and maneuver.

In the course of combat operations, the platoon may also employ the infiltration method of attack. Its goal is reaching the enemy rear area and the surprise capture of his key positions and objectives in the interests of the subunits which are attacking frontally (see Figure 1). U.S. regulations prescribe the execution of infiltration by groups which should move secretly on a front of up to 500 meters over several directions (without close lateral contact and visibility). The groups assemble in a previously established covered point in the enemy rear, occupy the departure position, and attack the objective with surprise from one or several directions. With such a type of attack, the platoon may be divided into three to five groups, and the squad, into one or two. Mountainous or broken terrain or swampy tracts are considered to be areas most favorable for infiltration.

At the same time, it is stressed in NATO manuals that required for the accomplishment of infiltration are the most thorough preparation of the personnel (especially if the operations take place at night) and the presence of sufficient time both for preparation and for direct infiltration into the rear area.

In contrast to the motorized infantry platoon which conducts the attack on APC's or infantry fighting vehicles [IFV], the infantry platoon can operate as a tank-borne assault force in the case where the attack is conducted from the march or against an enemy who has been demoralized by artillery and mortar fire.

In an attack against an enemy defense which is well prepared, saturated with antitank weapons, and is insufficiently neutralized by fire, the motorized infantry (infantry) operates dismounted and ahead of the tanks, destroying personnel and protecting its tanks against tank destroyers and the fire of antitank weapons. The tanks, in turn, duel with tanks, armored personnel carriers, and infantry fighting vehicles and with the weapons of the other side, supporting the advance of the motorized infantry. Here the IFV's and APC's follow at some distance (100-150 meters) from the tanks in readiness to take the motorized infantry on board for the exploitation of the attack.

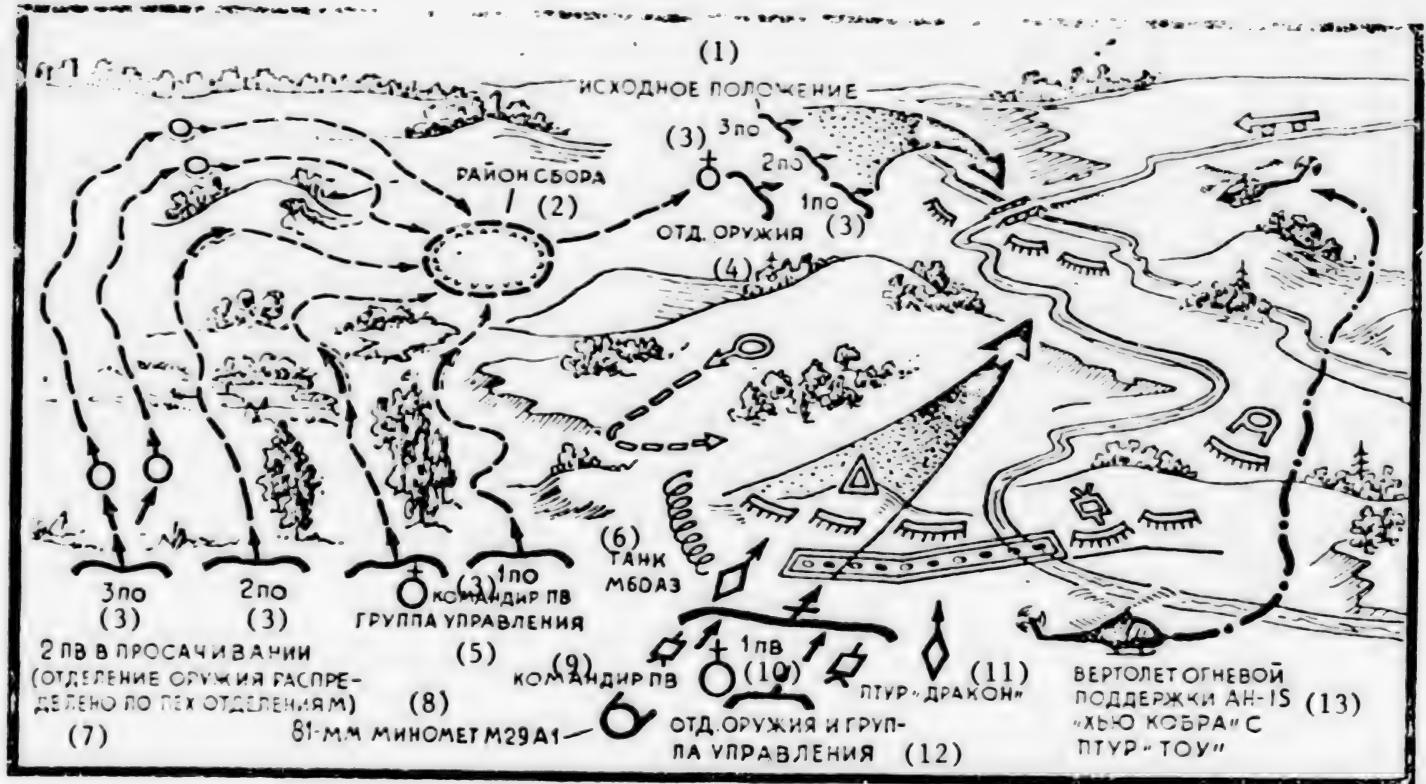


Figure 1.

Key:

1. Departure position
2. Assembly area
3. Infantry squad
4. Weapons section
5. Infantry platoon leader, control group
6. M60A3 tank
7. Two infantry platoons in infiltration (weapons section distributed among the infantry squads)
8. M29A1 81-mm mortar
9. Infantry platoon leader
10. Infantry platoon
11. Dragon antitank missile
12. Weapons section and control group
13. AH-1S Hue Cobra helicopter gunship with the TOW antitank missile

Individual weapons of the opposing side in the depth of its defense are destroyed by actions from the flank (rear) or are bypassed (partially blocked) and then destroyed by the forces of the second echelon (reserve). In case the attack is stopped, the platoon organizes an all-around defense and observation, digs in, and prepares to repel possible counterattacks.

During operations in the second echelon (reserve) the platoon advances behind the first echelon at a distance of 150-200 meters in readiness for exploitation

to cover the company flanks and render fire support to the first echelon. It is also assigned the mission to destroy the enemy in strong points which have been bypassed by first-echelon subunits.

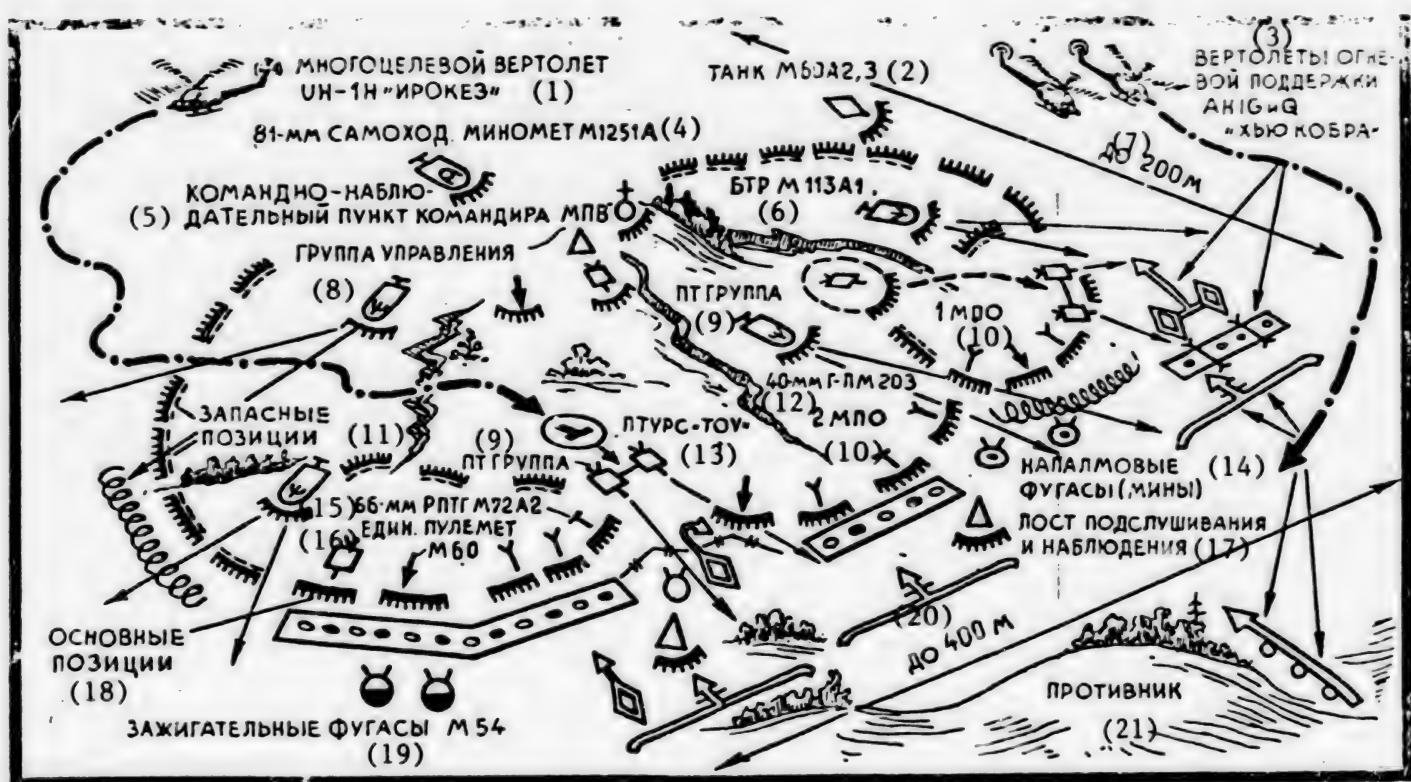


Figure 2.

Key:

1. UH-1H Iroquois multipurpose helicopter
2. M60A2.3 tank
3. AH1G and Q Hue Cobra helicopter gunship
4. M1251A 81-mm self-propelled mortar
5. Command-observation post of motorized-rifle platoon leader
6. M113A1 APC
7. Up to 200 meters
8. Control group
9. Antitank group
10. Motorized rifle squad
11. Alternate positions
12. M203 40-mm rifle grenade launcher
13. TOW antitank missile
14. Napalm mines
15. M72A2 66-mm antitank grenade launcher
16. Single machinegun
17. Listening and observation post
18. Primary positions
19. M54 incendiary mines
20. Up to 400 meters
21. Enemy

American regulations consider the /defense/ to be a type of combined-arms combat to which the subunits go over to repel enemy counterattacks, to gain time, and to economize in forces and weapons for the subsequent launching of an attack. The platoon in the defense is assigned the mission to prevent the enemy's approach to the FEBA and the breakthrough to the depth of its combat formations by means of organized fire.

With a penetration, he is to be destroyed by fire and counterattacks and the occupied position is to be restored in coordination with other subunits.

In the defense, the platoon operates basically as part of a company. But with battle in the mountains, in a forest, in a populated place, in an antilanding defense, and at a water obstacle it may also operate independently. The platoon prepares a defense area in which it improves a strong point up to 400 meters across the front and up to 200 meters in depth. The gaps between strong points may comprise up to 200 meters. These gaps must be covered by fire, observation, and patrolling and are monitored by helicopters. A squad occupies positions 100-150 meters across the front and 50-100 meters in depth.

The strong point is selected on commanding heights, on routes of the enemy's most probable movement, and is given engineer improvements (see Figure 2). One or two tanks, a TOW antitank missile launcher, and company and battalion means of reconnaissance may be disposed in the strong point. Most often, the platoon combat formation is organized in a line; however, American specialists believe that this should not interfere with the use of terrain conditions and the capabilities of organizational weapons. Therefore, sometimes two squads are disposed forward while the third is in the rear of the defense area. Here, the squad can defend with its front to the rear or forward to cover by fire the flanks of the squads located forward.

NATO regulations pay special attention to the organization of the fire system. It should envision destroying the enemy with machineguns and antitank missiles at the distant approaches, the buildup of the density and intensity of fire as the enemy approaches the FEBA, and destruction of the enemy who has penetrated into the defense. Cover is prepared for the APC's (IFV's) in the depth of the platoon strong point and within the limits of its area of defense to support the squads by fire and cover the platoon flanks.

The defensive battle begins by destroying the approaching enemy with effective fire at long distances. Enemy infantry is cut off from the tanks by the fire of machineguns and automatic rifles. Antitank missiles and antitank grenades concentrate fire on approaching enemy tanks, IFV's, and BTR's.

To repel the attacks of tanks and IFV's, NATO regulations recommend organizing antitank groups in the platoon and squads from the well trained soldiers and noncommissioned officers who are armed with the TOW and Dragon antitank missiles. As the journal INFANTRY writes, their mission includes hunting for enemy tanks and other armored targets. Such groups, which number from two men to a squad, can be shifted from the position to tank avenues of approach by helicopters.

In conclusion, it should be said that a special program of ideological processing has been developed for the personnel of the motorized infantry (infantry) subunits of the U.S. Army and other NATO countries, the core of which is frank anticommunism and anti-Sovietism, justification of American imperialism's aggressive aspirations, and substantiation of its participation in military adventures. It requires of Soviet servicemen high vigilance and the readiness to repel any intrigues of the imperialists.

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AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET IRRIGATION SPECIALIST AWARDED AFGHAN MEDALS FOR WORK IN JALALABAD OASIS

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 23 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by L. Guro, Uzbek SSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources press center correspondent, under the rubric "Shock Labor Diary": "Awards for Fraternal Aid"]

[Text] Afghan orders and medals have been ceremoniously awarded in the Uzbek SSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources to a group of Soviet specialists who distinguished themselves in the Jalalabad irrigation complex. M. Ernazarov and A. Nikiforov were honored with the Order of Glory, and U. Tukhtanazarov and R. Inoyatov with the Order of the Red Banner. Ch. Chutpulatov, A. Mamayusupov, M. Sultanov and B. Kasymov were awarded the medals "For Faithfulness" and "For Selflessness."

In a short time tens of thousands of hectares of land have been irrigated in Afghanistan. Canals, roads and hydroelectric stations have been built. Much has been accomplished in educating local cadres.

The enemies of the Afghan revolution are still trying to turn the Jalalabad oasis into a barren desert by means of sabotage; however, their attempts always end in failure. Detachments in defense of the revolution and special operations battalions are successfully struggling with the counterrevolution. They organize voluntary labor groups [khashary] for work on repair projects, in which Soviet specialists also participate.

Four mechanized state farms, which became the first large production cooperative in the country, were set up on the territory of the Jalalabad irrigation complex. Gardens and cultivated fields--all this has arisen thanks to the joint labor of Afghan and Soviet specialists.

CSO: 1807/68

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET FOLK SINGER INTERVIEWED ON TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN

[Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 November 1983 Second Edition carries on page 4 a 1,100-word interview with L. G. Zykina, leader of the Rossiya State Republican Folk Ensemble, under the heading "It Is a Great Joy To Sing for You." In the interview, conducted by Captain 2d Class V. Lukashevich, Zykina describes a trip to Afghanistan from which the ensemble has just returned, their concerts there, and their meetings with Soviet servicemen. Zykina describes the "spirit of courage" which affected them as soon as they set foot in the "long-suffering Afghan land," and how she saw the Soviet servicemen: "We knew their service is difficult, far from the motherland, anything can happen, but they were proud and calm." She explains how the ensemble has pledged "to regularly give concerts (that is, for as long as it is necessary for Soviet servicemen to be in Afghanistan) for those under our patronage," and she quotes a letter to her from a serviceman, who says their songs "help us to bear our difficult, but honorable service." Another serviceman, in a letter to his mother, says "don't worry about me, all is well with me." Zykina concludes by saying: "There is no greater joy--and these are not just words--than singing for the fatherland's defenders."

CSO: 1801/120

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

MEDAL FOR AFGHANISTAN VETERAN--That day will for a long time remain in the memory of Yuriy Kisilev, first-year student at the Red Banner Order--decorated Higher Military Aviation Engineering School in Kharkov. The school chief ceremoniously presented him with the Medal for Combat Merits. The former mechanic and repairman at the (Debaltsevo) railroad station in Donetsk Oblast and then soldier was recommended for the medal for the courage and valor displayed in carrying out international duty in the composition of the restricted contingent of Soviet troops in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Yuriy did not know that he had been recommended for a medal. He has entered the school, and is now mastering the profession of military aviation engineer. The school colleagues cordially congratulated Yuriy Kisilev on the high appraisal given to his (?service). [Text] [AU042100 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1415 GMT 15 Nov 83 AU]

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